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Consumers' Research Bulletin

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CONSUMERS' RESEARCH

Vol. 26 • No. 4 BULLETIN October 1950

Off the Editor's Chest

THE ghost of the OPA is rising to haunt us. Hardly had the dust cleared from the stampede in some sections of the country to stock up on sugar, soap, nylons, sheets, tires, and toilet paper, when the cry went up that authority should be given the federal government to impose price controls and rationing on consumers' goods.

Although those who felt that "there ought to be a law" were in the minority, they were reported as steadily gaining recruits from people who had become alarmed by steadily increasing prices. There was a pronounced disposition on the part of many consumers, according to the public press, to favor governmental controls on prices, with the hope that rationing would not be a necessary consequence.

Here and there a voice of sanity was raised to point out the unhappy consequences of such controls over the civilian economy. In the place of price controls, Henry Hazlitt recommended an immediate end to the federal government's present inflationary policies, including its actions in keeping the prices of food high by means of subsidies and price supports, its subsidy of an inflationary boom in housing, and federal subsidies of various export commodities. The Foundation for Economic Education published part of a recent study on the effects of rationing and price control on sugar during World War II which showed that on the basis of the most favorable interpretation of available data the amount of money saved per person yearly by the ration stamp method of distribution was between $1.08 and $1.28 and that figure did not take into account the "overhead costs" of the governmental machinery necessary to administer the ration program, the cost to the consumer of time and travel to ration boards, and purchases of substitute sweetening agents, such as syrup and honey, at considerably higher prices.

A yearning for a restricted, government-managed economy apparently still lingers in certain sections of our economic life. Whether it be some vestige of heritage from the New England Puritans or the insidious influence of the modern collectivist's doctrine that the living standards of all of us must be equalized on a lowest common denominator basis is a matter for sociologists to examine in future studies. Whatever its origin, there is a decided tendency on the part of those who consider themselves chosen to direct our economic life to act as if they were better qualified than consumers themselves to determine how each of us shall spend his money, what we shall be permitted to buy, and how much we shall pay for the commodities and services we desire. Even before the Korean conflict, this

(Continued on page 21)

Consumers' Research functions to provide unbiased information on goods bought by ultimate consumers. For their benefit (not for business or industry) and solely with the funds they provide, CR carries on tests and research on a wide variety of goods, materials, and appliances, and publishes the findings in CR Bulletin. Consumers' Research is a non-profit institution, and is organized and operates as a scientific, technical, and educational organization.

Scientific and Technical Staff and Editors: F. J. Schlink, R. Joyce, Dwight C. Aten, M. C. Phillips, Erma A. Hinck, and A. R. Greenleaf. Editorial Assistants: Mary F. Roberts and B. Beam.

Symbols used to indicate sources of data and bases of ratings: **A**—recommended on basis of quality; **AA**—regarded as worthy of highest recommendation; **B**—intermediate with respect to quality; **C**—not recommended on basis of quality; cr—information from Consumers' Research's own tests or investigations; **1, 2, 3**—relative prices, **1** being low, **3** high. Note that price and quality are completely differentiated in CR's listings; **a quality judgment is independent of price;** 49, 50—year in which test was made or information obtained or organized by the staff of Consumers' Research.

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★★★For a brief cumulative index of 1950 BULLETINS preceding this issue, see page 23.

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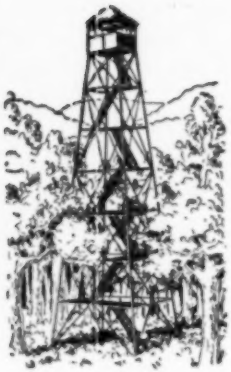


The Consumers' Observation Post

HOW OFTEN THE DRIVER of an automobile should have the oil changed in the crankcase of his car continues to be a subject of much discussion and no little confusion. As one oil company executive pointed out, auto manufacturers recommend oil-change periods that vary from 300 miles to 5000 miles between changes. The petroleum industry's recommendations, according to this same executive, vary from 500 miles for the initial drain to 1000 miles, 2000 miles and up to twice a year for drains thereafter. CR subscribers of long standing may remember that as far back as May 1931 we advised that changing oil at every 2000 to 3000 miles was perfectly satisfactory under ordinary conditions of driving. Our position was reaffirmed by an official release in December 1948 from the Bureau of Federal Supply of the Treasury Department which recommended for government cars change of oil only in spring and fall or at 4000-mile intervals, whichever came first. Since the appearance of this government recommendation, the oil companies have been hard put to it to justify the more frequent changes they deem necessary to maintain good levels of business on automobile oil, although some of the advertising circulars issued in rebuttal to CR's recommendations have made claims that would be impressive to nontechnical people.

* * *

CAREFUL TOOTHBRUSHING is important for healthy gums, advises Dr. Maynard K. Hine, dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, writing in the Journal of the American Dental Association. The brushing should not be done in such a way as to irritate the gum tissue. As for the proper dentifrice, Dr. Hine suggests "equal parts of water and elbow grease." The toothbrush he recommends is one with an inch-long head, containing medium one-half inch long bristles bound in tufts about one-eighth of an inch apart and mounted in two rows of six tufts each.

* * *

CAKE MIXES will keep better under refrigeration, if they are not to be used promptly, recommends a study reported at the July meeting of the American Home Economics Association at Boston. According to this report, mixes stored up to seven weeks at room temperature produced good cakes; up to 20 weeks when refrigerated. Experiments at Cornell by Marcia H. Pimentel and Alice M. Briant indicated that dry cake mixes could be successfully made at home by combining the fat with half the sugar and then adding the other ingredients to the fat-sugar mixture. Mixes stored for as long as 12 months in a cool dark place were found to keep their flavor, but six weeks was about as long as they could be kept at room temperature.

* * *

NEEDLING OF BROILERS with monosodium glutamate "to improve flavor" has been banned by the Food and Drug Administration, reports Food Field Reporter. The process results in moisture absorption of at least three percent on each bird and is therefore considered to be adulteration. The industry, on the other hand, holds this is an insignificant amount.

* * *

CURRENT ADVERTISING COPY needs to be improved in several respects, and there should be a reduction in "glamour" appeal with more emphasis on the presentation of complete information in advertisements, recommends Howard P. Abrahams of the National Retail Dry Goods Association. As he graphically put it, reversing a sales adage very popular a few years ago, "Let's sell the steak and not the sizzle." He pointed out in a speech that "cheesecake" and over-enthusiastic claims not only injured the reader's confidence in the product advertised but in all advertising as well, and noted that there is a rising

disbelief in testimonials. It is to be hoped that the leaders in the advertising industry will take his words to heart.

* * *

VITAMIN DEFICIENCY is so infrequent in the United States that it is doubtful if there is any need for widespread consumption of purified vitamin supplements, according to Dr. P. J. Culver of Boston. Writing in the New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Culver makes the point that there is a lack of objective evidence of any improvement in health, fitness, or work capacity in large population groups who have received vitamin supplements. Where a definite state of avitaminosis (vitamin deficiency) exists, he suggests a dosage of three to five times the normal requirement for a few days and then putting the patient on a good diet.

* * *

TABLE MATS OF LINEN may be expected to give considerably longer use than plastic mats, according to a study made at Alabama Polytechnic Institute by Bettie Blackwell Dickson and Lilly Hester Spencer. The two researchers also found that the plastic mats, made of polystyrene, quickly lost attractiveness of design when wiped with a damp cloth after each meal and cleaned eight times during the study with a mild soap. The linen mats were slightly higher in price than the ones made of plastic, but had a longer life expectancy. On a flat-plate ironer, they required slightly less time to iron than the total cleaning time for the plastic mats.

* * *

OVERDOSES OF SLEEPING PILLS continue to be reported in the public press. During the war, such cases were attributed to tensions and strains of the period, but there seems to be no letup. According to one public health official, production of sleeping pills has increased 300 percent since 1940. Many states have prohibited their sale except on prescription, but bootlegging is claimed to be widespread. The two most widely used drugs of this type are pentobarbital and sodium amytal. The sleeping-pill or barbiturate addict is difficult to cure.

* * *

BLACK is still the most popular color on new automobiles, as it was in the days of that famous remark of Henry Ford that customers could have any color Ford they wanted so long as it was black. Green is second choice. A survey reported by Automobile Facts indicated that black was first choice, except in California, where brighter colors were more numerous. Popularity of the two-tone car is found to be increasing, with two shades of green taking the lead, followed closely by two shades of gray or blue. Fortunately for the consumer, black is the most durable color for cars, according to information recently made available to Consumers' Research. Chrome green is good, though not nearly so good as black, and dark blue, too, is among the better colors. Maroons are among the colors that do not have good lasting qualities. Metal flecks, which are used in some automobile finishes at the present time, do not improve durability as some have claimed; the lasting qualities of the enamels containing them are about the same as of enamels without the flakes.

* * *

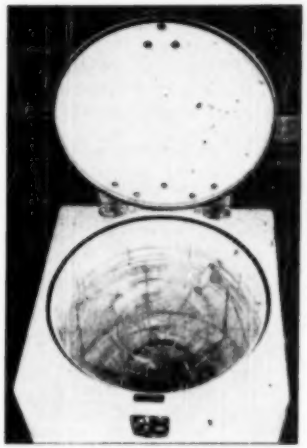
IN THE FIELD OF MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING, garments made of rayon will outsell tropical worsteds this year, in the opinion of a mill executive. Although this same source predicts a favorable outlook for men's nylon garments this fall, he warns that any fabric containing less than 15 percent of nylon should not be promoted as a nylon fabric. Such a small percentage of this fiber will not provide quick-drying qualities that consumers expect, and they will undoubtedly show considerable dissatisfaction with such purchases.

* * *

FOOD ALLERGY is either wide-spread or a lot of physicians are kidding a lot of long-paying patients, suggests a food industry journal. That the disease is not imaginary but is due to modern food processing is borne out by a report of dietary experiments by Dr. H. Pollak of London with allergic patients which indicated that effects which would have been attributed to ingestion of wheat were strikingly associated with ingestion of products made from "agene"-bleached flour. The "agene" process, which has also been held to be a factor in aggravating peptic ulceration, has now been banned in the United States, and

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)

General Electric Dishwasher Model RA-949B16



Homart Model 787-24

Three Automatic Dishwashers and Two Non-Automatic (Portable) Dishwashers

A GOOD automatic dishwasher will save time and effort in most families, provided it is large enough to take care of all the dishes for a meal in one load. For a small family, it may even be practical, after rinsing and scouring the dirty pots and pans by hand, to wash them with the rest of the dirty utensils at the end of the meal. When the whole capacity of the dishwasher is needed for dishes and silverware, as it will be in a large family, the washing of the cooking utensils in the dishwasher can proceed while the meal is being eaten, leaving the machine free for dishes and silverware at the end of the meal. Dividing the dishwasher load this way cannot normally be done with the non-automatic or so-called portable dishwashers since they require almost constant attention. The noise made by a dishwasher will be objectionable to most people who customarily eat their meals in the room where the machine is located.

There are some practical advantages in storing the dishes in the machine until a full load is accumulated and washing all at one time, because the cost of operation is reduced somewhat and the consumption of detergent, which is expensive, is lessened. On the other hand, the longer the dishes are stored before washing, the less likely they are to be cleaned as completely as though they were washed after each meal. However, with a non-automatic dishwasher, which has the great disadvantage of requiring the operator's attention throughout the operating period, a worth-while saving in time can be accomplished only by packing a full load in the machine and making a single job of it, if the family is a small one.

Of the automatic dishwashers tested, three required special plumbing installations and two required permanent electrical connections. Installation costs will add significantly to the initial price of the appliance. The *Kitchen Aid* did not require a permanent electrical hook-up. The non-automatic dishwashers tested did not require any special installation.

The tests made by CR determined the effectiveness of the machines in cleaning dishes, the time required for a complete cycle as well as the time for each phase of that cycle, their electrical safety, and whether they were of good construction. Table I shows the number of dishes used in the tests, and the soil used on them. All of the machines tested, except the *Cory Matic Maid*, held the full number of dishes and pieces of silverware listed.

The *Cory Matic Maid* was too small to hold the serving bowl and the platter, and held only 4 each of the other dishes listed.

Table 1

Utensil	Type of Soil
6 dinner plates	1/3 plate soft boiled egg, 1/3 raspberry jam, 1/3 vegetable shortening, and cigarette ashes
6 soup plates	tomato soup and cigarette ashes
6 coffee cups	coffee with milk and sugar and cigarette ashes
6 saucers	same as coffee cups
6 desert saucers	2 saucers egg, 2 shortening, 2 jam (1 of each, ashes)
6 glasses	milk and lipstick
1 serving bowl	vegetable shortening
1 platter	½ shortening, ½ soft boiled egg
6 knives	2 knives egg, 2 shortening, 2 jam
6 forks	2 forks egg, 2 shortening, 2 jam
6 teaspoons	3 spoons egg, 1 jam, 1 soup, 1 coffee
6 tablespoons	1 spoon egg, 2 shortening, 1 jam, 2 soup

Three washing tests were made with each machine using the soiling materials listed in Table 1. Three of the plates, washed in each machine, were high-grade porcelain with gold trim. They were carefully examined at the conclusion of each test for any evidence of crazing, or chipping of the trim. Results showed that no noticeable damage had occurred. In still other tests, a few fine glass goblets were washed. These acquired some fine scratches, suggesting that any electric dishwasher should be used with caution in the cleansing of high-quality glassware, or perhaps the machine should be tried on some old goblets as a means of deciding on the safety of the method before using the machine on new flawless fine glassware.

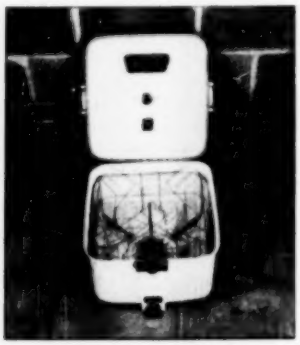
The dishwashers were subjected to a use test under conditions similar to those in the home. Soiled dishes from Consumers' Research lunchroom were washed every day for three weeks. In this test the only machine whose results were excellent was the *Kitchen Aid*. The *General Electric* portable, the *Apex Dish-A-Matic*, and the *Homart* did a fairly good job, while the *Cory Matic Maid* proved unsatisfactory.

All the washers but the *Cory* had porcelain-enamel-coated tubs and all the automatic machines had top surfaces finished with porcelain enamel. The *Cory* had white enamel paint.

The detergent used for all tests was *Calgonite*, and it was used as specified in the dishwashers' instruction books. Most detergents made for dishwashers are strongly alkaline and not at all suitable for washing dishes by hand. It should be borne in mind that these detergents are very likely to damage linoleum or painted surfaces if they are spilled on them.

It was observed that although the temperature of the water entering the machine was high, the water cooled considerably during the wash and rinse cycles, because of the heat absorbed by the tub and the dishes. This occurred in all of the dishwashers tested, including the *Dish-A-Matic*, which had a built-in water heater. An adequate supply of hot water is necessary for good results with the dishwashers, and a temperature of about 150°F, at the dishwasher, is desirable. Considerable cooling of the water may take place in the pipes if the

Kitchen Aid Model KD-20



Cory Matic Maid Model B

Apex Dish-A-Matic Model 970-1

water heater is not near the dishwasher and for that reason it might be well to have insulation applied to the hot water pipe.

The cost of heating water for dishwashers is not to be regarded as entirely an additional expense, since hot water must be supplied for dishwashing by hand, too. Home dishwashing machines require from about 3 to 9 gallons of water per cycle depending upon the design of the machine. Table II shows the approximate cost of heating one gallon of water with each of several kinds of fuel.

In examining the dishes after the tests in which the standard soils were used, it was noticed that considerable redepositing of food materials occurred. For this reason, it is advisable to scrape residues of food from the dishes as well as possible, in order to minimize the possibility of food particles being redeposited on the dishes, silverware, and glassware.

Hot water and detergent often cause warping and discoloration in certain types of plastic tableware; on this account it is advisable to use only a type of plastic that can withstand high temperatures.

In the listings following, all machines were for operation on 115 volts a.c. Ratings are cr50.

Automatic Dishwashers

A. Recommended

Kitchen Aid, Model KD-20 (The Hobart Mfg. Co., Troy, Ohio) $295. Wire dishracks of good construction. The racks were easy to load and could be rolled in or out of the machine on wheels, with stops to prevent them from going too far. The door opened downward to a horizontal position permitting the lower rack to be rolled upon it for loading. Controls: start switch with signal light, and timer control that could be adjusted manually to change the operating time if desired. Opening the door during the cycle stopped the machine, but did not change the cycle of operation except to extend its time by the period the door was open. Detergent was introduced by sprinkling on the inside of the door before it was closed. The complete cycle included a 5-minute wash, two 1-minute rinses, and a 22½-minute drying period; including filling and draining, the total time was close to 35 minutes. Power rating, 1000 watts, maximum. Energy consumed per cycle, about .395 watt-hours. If machine were used 3 times a day, electrical energy required per month at 3½c per kwhr. would cost approximately $1.25. Amount of hot water used per cycle was approximately 7 gal. Built-in heater for drying raised the air temperature to about 132°F and was effective except on the concave bottoms of some glasses, where some water remained. Dishwashing ac-

Table II

COST OF HEATING DOMESTIC SERVICE WATER BY VARIOUS METHODS

Fuel	Water Heating Equipment	Assumed Price of Fuel	Cost to Heat 1 gal. of Water, in Hundredths of a Cent
Electric	Automatic Storage	1c/kwhr.	28
	Automatic Storage	2.25/kwhr.	63
Gas (Mfd.)	Automatic Storage	$1.40/1000 cu. ft.	31
	Tank with side arm coil (instantaneous)	$1.40/1000 cu. ft.	62
Gas (Natural)	Automatic Storage	75c/1000 cu. ft.	17
	Tank with side arm coil (instantaneous)	75c/1000 cu. ft.	33
Coal	Bucket-a-day (jack stove)	$22/ton	22
	Indirect (circulating coil attached to outside of boiler and connected to a storage tank)	$22/ton	11
	Tankless	$22/ton	13
	Furnace coils	$22/ton	14
Oil	Indirect (circulating coil attached to outside of oil-burning boiler, and connected to a storage tank)	12c/gal.	14
	Tankless	12c/gal.	12

tion and effectiveness were very good, and this was best of the machines tested in that respect. The tub and racks were clean at the end of the cycle, but traces of rust were noted at many of the welds on the wire racks. 3

B. Intermediate

Homart, Model 787-24 (Sears, Roebuck & Co.) $200. Wire dishracks of stainless steel. Ease of loading, fair. White porcelain finished lid opened to a vertical position for top loading. Controls: one 3-purpose switch to turn machine on, off, or to open the lid. The lid could be opened during the operation by turning the control switch to the off position and then to the open position, but if this were done, and the machine turned on again after closing the lid, the complete cycle was repeated. Detergent was placed in the cup provided for it. The complete cycle included a ½-minute flush to clear cold water from the pipes, a 7-1/3-minute wash, a 3-minute rinse, a 2-minute rinse, a 15-minute drying period, and the total time of a complete cycle was close to 36 minutes. Measured power input, 1070 watts. Energy consumed per cycle was approximately 375 watt-hours. If machine were used 3 times a day, electrical energy required per month at 3½c per kwhr. would cost approximately $1.20. Amount of hot water used per cycle was approximately 7 gal. Built-in heater for drying raised the temperature to a maximum of 150°F and was effective, except for a little water left on bottom of cups and glasses. Dishwashing results were fairly good on both dishes and silverware. Tub was found dirty at end of each washing cycle; racks were fairly clean but required some wiping. At the beginning of the tests, some intermittent trouble was experienced with the cycling. After the timer had been replaced with a new one, the machine operated normally. Before replacing the faulty timer, the dishwasher failed in the proof-voltage test (breakdown at 580 volts), but did not fail in this test after the new timer had been installed. 1

Apex Dish-A-Matic, Model 970-1 (Apex Electrical Mfg. Co., Cleveland 10) $290. This model differed in three noticeable ways from the *Dish-A-Matic* previously tested (rated A, *Recommended* as reported in CR's Bulletin for March 1948): the racks were covered with vinyl plastic; the metal baskets for silverware were placed on the sides instead of the front corners; and an interior light was added. The plastic-covered racks proved less efficient than the plain wire racks because they tended to catch more loose food particles. This was especially noticeable where the plates rested against the plastic. The interior light interfered with the placement of dishes and the upward throw of the water. Although the difference in the racks and the addition of a light were factors in reducing the efficiency, a more important reason for changing the rating from A, *Recommended* to B, *Intermediate* was the much better efficiency of the *Kitchen Aid*, which had not been tested hitherto. Ease of loading, considered fair. White-porcelain-finished lid opened to a vertical position for top loading. The lid included a round glass window that was 14 in. in diameter. The light in the tub remained on during the complete cycle, but was of no value when the machine was washing or rinsing, since it was impossible to see anything but the water beating against the glass. (Light and window are not considered to be of practical value.) Controls: timer, indicator light, and push button to open lid located on backsplash. Timer control could be adjusted manually to change the operating time, if desired. The lid could not be opened while the machine was in operation, except by turning the timer and disturbing the cycle or by waiting for lid to open normally during the drying cycle. Detergent was introduced by sprinkling in the center area. Complete cycle included a 14½-minute wash, 5-minute rinse (water entered tub during first 2¼ minutes of wash and of rinse), 7-minute drying period; total time for the cycle was close to 30 minutes. This machine had a 2-gal. electric water heater to supply water at a temperature of 175° to 185°F. This machine could be connected to either the hot or the cold water supply. The manufacturer recommended, however, that the dishwasher be connected to the hot water line. In CR's tests, this machine (like the other dishwashers studied) was supplied with water from the hot water system. At the beginning of the test, the temperature of the water at the vacuum breaker was found to be lower than claimed by the manufacturer. After installation of a new thermostat, the temperature was correct for the wash water after the heater had been on for ½ hr. or more, but slightly low for the rinse water. Temperature of the water in the tub dropped considerably during the actual wash and rinse periods. Power rating, 1700 watts; the machine therefore requires its own independent electrical branch circuit. Energy consumed per cycle, including a preheat period of ½ hr. to heat the water before each washing, about 930 watt-hours. With three washings a day, electrical energy required per month at 3½c per kwhr. would cost approximately $2.95. The amount of hot water used per cycle was approximately 3 gal. Drying effectiveness, fair. (Washer depended on the residual heat, and the fan action of the plastic impeller, to dry the dishes.) Results in dishwashing were only fair for the silverware, and were good for the dishes. The tub was clean after each wash, but the racks were fairly dirty and had to be wiped off after use. 3

Non-Automatic Dishwashers

B. Intermediate

General Electric Dishwasher RA-949B16, Portable Model (General Electric Co., Bridgeport 2, Conn.) $170. Wire dishracks. Ease of loading, considered fair. White enameled lid raised to vertical position for top loading. The lid contained a compartment for measuring the correct amount of water and for directing the flow through a cup containing the detergent. Controls: On-Off switch, Fill-Drain-Wash-Rinse knob, and the hot water faucet. Machine mounted on casters. No permanent installation required, since water was taken in through a hose slipped over the faucet and water was pumped out through another hose. The cover could be opened while washer was running, but if this were done, water would splash out. The cycle included a wash and two rinses. The time recommended by the instructions was 5 minutes for the wash, 2 minutes for the first rinse, and 1 minute for the second rinse. Cycle, not including drying, would require about 13 minutes. Measured power, 380 watts. Energy consumed per cycle, about 65 watt-hours. If machine were used 3 times a day, electrical energy required per month at 3½c per

kwhr. would cost approximately 20c. Amount of hot water used per cycle was approximately 5½ gal. Results of dishwashing were very good on the dishes and fair on the silverware. The tub and racks were clean at the end of the cycle. Lid must be lifted to permit drying by air. Some pieces may have to be dried by hand before using for the next meal. 3

C. Not Recommended

Cory Matic Maid, Model B (Cory Corp., Chicago 1) $90. Wire dishracks. Ease of loading, poor. Cover, including motor, had to be removed for loading, considered awkward. Controls: On-Off switch, drain valve, and hot water faucet. No permanent installation required; the washer had to be placed on the sink shelf with its drain projecting over the sink, for normal operation. A fill-hose was supplied which slipped over the hot water faucet and had to be held at the washer inlet while filling. This hose was often too hot to hold with the hand. Detergent was introduced by sprinkling it over the dishes. The time recommended by the instructions was 5 minutes for wash and 5 minutes for rinse. Cycle, not including drying, required about 13 minutes. Rated power, 95 watts. Directions on the motor name plate called for oiling the motor every 3 months with SAE 20 motor oil. These directions were not normally visible, nor were they mentioned in the instruction book. Energy consumed per cycle was approximately 16 watt-hours and would cost only 5c a month (at 3½c per kwhr.), if used 3 times a day. Amount of hot water used per cycle was approximately 6 gal. With cover removed, dishes were reasonably well dried in approximately ½ hr. after rinse. Results were not good on plates and glasses but were good on other dishes and silver. Tub and racks were dirty after washing dishes and had to be cleaned. The capacity of this dishwasher was considered to be too small to be of much value; hand washing of dishes would, in CR's view, be about as desirable for most consumers as using the *Cory Matic Maid*. 1

Small "Personal" Washing Machine

THE *Monitor Model 6-P* sample reported herewith differs in several respects from the old *Model AERW-4* (now known as the *Model 4*) reported in the November 1947 BULLETIN. The new washer may be obtained equipped with or without a pump; it holds 9 gallons of water as compared with 8 and has a longer wringer than the older model. It was far inferior in washing ability to the *Model 4*. Washing was spotty with loads of 4, 4½, 5, and 6 pounds of dry clothes (manufacturer's literature and instruction sheet recommend "5-6 pounds of dry clothes" or "2 full size bed sheets, 2 pillow cases and 5 bath towels" or "5 cotton dresses and 3 aprons" or "32 to 50 diapers" or "10 men's shirts"). A *Model 4 Monitor Washer*, used to a moderate extent for the past two years and run as a check on the new *Monitor*, and a *Maytag* non-automatic washer, *Model E2L*, which is used as a convenient standard of reference in washer tests by CR, were almost twice as effective as the *Monitor Model 6-P* in washing ability. CR has not investigated the cause of the difference; the only major changes which would seem able to account for the lower washing ability are the dished bottom in the *Model 6-P*, used to obtain greater volume, and a different design of the impeller.

Monitor Aerator Model 6-P

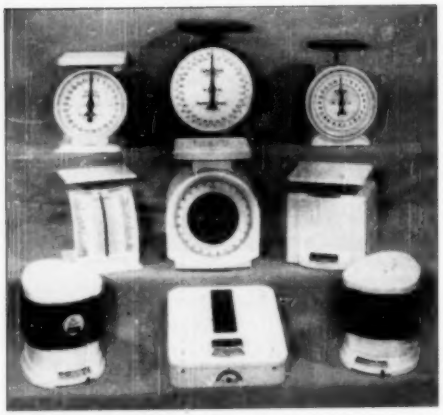
C. Not Recommended

Monitor Aerator, Model 6-P (Monitor Equipment Corp., New York 63) $70 (*Model 6*, without pump, $60). Rated capacity: 5 to 6 lb. (see text); 9 gal. of water. Power input: washer, 350 watts; pump (separate motor), 75 watts. Time for pump to empty 9 gal. of water, 2 minutes 10 seconds. Water-removing ability of wringer, good. Machine must not be operated with more than the recommended amount of water, to avoid splashing.

Household

Spring-Actuated

Weighing Scales



Top row, left to right — American Family, Hanson 2060, Hanson 2000.
Middle row, left to right — Kitchen Master Reminder, Pelouze "Way-ette" Model H-25, Universal.
Bottom row, left to right — Be Sure Dazey, Borg 50, Aldeco.

IN buying a low-priced scale, with its convenience and easy reading of the weight, the housewife does not realize that she sacrifices accuracy; none of the usual household scales give correct weights to a degree which makes them comparable with good scales used in stores. (The relatively accurate computing scales used by butchers and grocers for the weighing of high-value commodities cost in the neighborhood of $300 or more.)

Many housewives suppose that they are safe in using a home weighing scale to weigh cuts of meat purchased at the butcher shop, for example, to determine whether they have been given full weight. Usually she will not be making a reliable check in doing this, for practically all the household scales in wide use are not accurate enough for the purpose of checking commercial weighings, and some household scales of the type included in this report would have errors many times those that would be tolerable in a scale for butcher shop or grocery store use.

Several of the scales had quite large errors, especially in weighing loads above 15 pounds; one scale, the *Borg*, showed an error of nearly 2 pounds when loaded by a standard weight of 50 pounds. The *Kitchen Master Reminder* also had exceptionally large errors, as much as 8 ounces under a 10-pound load, with large errors also at several smaller loads.

All of the scales tested were of the type in which the weighing platforms actuated a spring mechanism and moved a pointer in proportion to the deflection of the spring.

The Bureau of Standards' specifications which apply to these scales permit maximum errors of ½ ounce at a 12-pound load which is centrally located on the platform. For a load which is placed somewhat off-center (as may happen in practical weighing) the error will normally be larger, due to mechanical imperfections and inaccuracies in the details of the weighing mechanism. On the *Universal* and the *Kitchen Master Reminder*, very large errors were produced when the load was away from a central position — 9 ounces at 12 pounds in the case of the *Universal*. When a 5-pound load was displaced from the central position on the *Kitchen Master Reminder*, the readings were in error by a large and uncertain amount, caused by the dial indicator arm's rubbing against the edge of the slot in the reading face. The magnitude of the errors which occur with shifting of a load from its ideal position on the platform will indicate to the housewife that any household scale will give the best accuracy of which it is capable only when the load is centered as carefully as may be practicable.

Friction was the chief cause of inaccuracy of reading. Scales of this general type have high frictional errors, largely because they are of relatively crude design and manufacture, and because they are constructed to stand a considerable amount of abuse; a delicate mechanism fairly free from friction would not stand the vicissitudes of rough handling, high humidity, and other sources of damage which are likely to affect a kitchen scale.

Cheap spring scales are also subject to errors due to temperature changes, and hence will have greater errors when used at extremely low or extremely high temperatures. Correction of this type of error is not practicable in any inexpensive scale. The vari-

ous difficulties which affect the use of cheap spring scales have led weights and measures officials to prohibit their use in commercial transactions, and in many states and cities scales of this design are required to be labeled "Not legal for use in trade," in order to protect the consumer from their misuse. All of the scales in the present test carried this labeling.

One of the scales (the *Hanson 2060*) was especially to be criticized because its bottom was not a true plane, with the result that the scale could be rocked to a marked degree on its base. The *Aldeco* had the same defect to a somewhat lesser extent. With the exception of the two *Hansons* and the *Kitchen Master Reminder*, all of the scales were protected from scratches and dirt by glass or celluloid enclosing the dial. Three of the scales (*American Family, Hanson 2000* and *Borg 50*) had graduations spaced more closely than the specifications of the Bureau of Standards permit. These scales were on that account unduly hard to read. The two scales which showed the highest accuracy (*Aldeco* and *Be Sure Dazey*, which were evidently made by the same manufacturer) also showed evidences of good design in other respects in that they were the most easily read scales in the group. The construction of all the scales, except the *Kitchen Master Reminder*, was deemed to be satisfactory.

All of the scales were equipped with a zero adjustment device, usually a small knurled nut (except the *Universal*, which had a 1½-inch disk with serrated edge; the *Be Sure Dazey* and *Aldeco* had a lever which moved the pointer on the scale). The adjusting device was located in most scales underneath the pan; by turning this, the user could bring the indicating pointer into the zero position on the dial when there was no load on the scale.

Persons buying household scales should bear in mind that because of frequent changes in postal rates, it is somewhat risky to buy scales which have postal-rate information printed on the dial or shown in the graduations; in any event, in buying such a scale, one should make a special point of determining that the markings are correct as of the date of purchase.

B. Intermediate

Be Sure Dazey (Dazey Corp., Warne and Carter Sts., St. Louis) $4.50. Capacity, 25 lb. by 2-oz. graduations. Dial is protected by transparent plastic strip and is easily readable. Spacing between graduations is adequate and pointer is shaped for easy reading. Egg-shaped pan, approximately 5 in. x 8 in. at the widest and longest parts. Scale, in general, well constructed, having an attractive white finish with red trim. Correction for zero, good. Protection from dust and dirt, only fair, as there was a large opening with a total length of about ¼ in. between the moving platform and the base section. Overall, considered a very satisfactory scale. The *Be Sure Dazey* and the *Aldeco* were close together in accuracy, and, in that respect, were somewhat better than the other scales tested. These scales had a taring device which permitted an adjustment up to 3 lb. 12 oz. for the weight of a container. This device was more convenient than on the other scales, which require turning of a screw or knob for zero adjustment. **2**

Aldeco (Now being manufactured by Dazey Corp., and called *Dazey*) Identical in appearance with the *Be Sure Dazey* and presumed to be the same scale sold under a different name. Base did not sit quite solidly on a plane surface. **2**

C. Not Recommended

Kitchen Master Reminder (Kampak Inc., 200 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) $2.15. Capacity, 10 lb. by 2-oz. graduations. Pan, 4 in. x 5⅝ in. Graduations poorly designed, so that reading was needlessly difficult. Construction not considered sturdy. Indicator did not remain parallel to the graduations. Not well protected from entrance of dust and dirt. Among the most inaccurate of the scales tested. **1**

American Family (American Family Scale Co., Inc., 113 N. Green, Chicago) $3.69. Capacity, 25 lb. by 1-oz. graduations. Pan, 6 in. x 6 in. Pointer blunt and difficult to read against the thin graduations. Showed 3 oz. variation at the zero (much too large); not well protected from dust and dirt. Accuracy, poor; pointer touched at one point on bezel, with resulting large error. **2**

Hanson 2000 (Hanson Scale Co., 527 N. Ada, Chicago) $4.50. Capacity, 25 lb. by 1-oz. graduations. Pan, approximately 5½ in. x 5½ in.; readability, fair; spacing between graduations, inadequate; base, stable; construction, fair. Not well protected from dust and dirt. Accuracy, not good, though better than average of scales tested. **2**

Borg 59 (Borg-Erickson Corp., 469 E. Ohio, Chicago) $6.95. Capacity, 51 lb. by 2-oz. graduations. Scale of unusual construction for household scales; the general form was that of a small bathroom scale. Pan, 8 in. x 10 in.; has glass enclosed dial; readability, poor, because of inadequate spacing between graduations. A considerable area was exposed to entry of dust and dirt. Accuracy, very poor, with maximum error of .80 oz. (worst of scales tested). **3**

Hanson 2060 (Hanson Scale Co.) $6.50. Capacity, 60 lb. by 2-oz. graduations. Pan, 6¾ in. x 6¾ in.; base was not flat, hence scale did not sit steadily on a plane surface. Dial easily readable, but not protected. Protection from dust and dirt, poor. Accuracy, poor, especially at readings near its capacity. **3**

Pelouze "Way-ette," Model H-25 (Pelouze Mfg. Co., 1218 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Ill.) $9.95. Capacity, 25 lb. by 1-oz. graduations. Pan, approximately 4½ in. x 6 in. Dial is protected by glass on which the graduations are printed. Case made of white plastic; platform a diecast alloy; back, sheet steel. Spacing between graduations, adequate. Scale is well protected from entry of dust and dirt. Accuracy, poor, especially at readings of 15 lb. and higher. **3**

Universal (Distributed by Gimbel Bros., B'way at 33, N.Y.C.) $5.95. Capacity, 24 lb. by 2-oz. graduations. Pan, 6 in. x 6 in. Dial is protected by a transparent plastic window. Readability, poor. Well protected from dust and dirt. Accuracy, poor, at 15 lb. and above. **3**

Four Television Receivers

IT would appear, at the time this is written, that some curtailment in TV production may be expected this fall. It is likely, however, that there will be some 7,500,000 TV receivers in use before there is a significant restriction of output. Prices for receivers are likely to be slightly higher than they were in the spring; several manufacturers have already announced small price increases. It also appears likely that the proposed 10 percent excise tax on TV receivers will become effective this fall.

There are two factors which must be considered by anyone thinking of purchasing a TV receiver now. The first is the likelihood, as the situation looks at this time, that the CBS color system will be the one selected finally by the Federal Communications Commission. Their recent "semi-final" decision in which they told the TV industry to produce and demonstrate within three months a color system superior to CBS's, if they do not wish the CBS system to be adopted, indicates that "compatibility," or the ability to receive both color and black-and-white broadcasts on the same TV receivers is of only minor importance in the Commission's deliberations. Developmental work on all color systems under consideration by the F.C.C. is continuing at a rapid rate, with improvements in quality of reception being reported from time to time by several laboratories. It is unlikely, however, that color TV receivers, even after a final decision is made by F.C.C., will be available to the public in quantity within the next year. One well-informed source indicates that 3 years is more likely to be required before color receivers will be in quantity production and it is believed that color receivers will be a good deal more expensive than present TV sets.

Admiral Model 26 R 37. Model 26 R 36 used similar chassis.

General Electric Model 16 C 115

The other factor to be considered is the possibility that the government may stop all TV broadcasting in the event of full-scale war. While partial curtailment is a possibility, a complete shutdown of stations is considered unlikely, since officialdom has found already that TV has a tremendous advantage over radio with regard to reaching and influencing the public.

In general, a perusal of the manufacturers' claims for their "fall models" indicates that only minor changes have been made in circuits. Use of

larger-sized picture tubes is increasing, and tubes with rectangular viewing screens are becoming more popular and seem likely to be adopted almost universally by the producers, at least in the more popular 16-, 17-, and 19-inch sizes.

In the listings, all receivers were for operation on alternating current only. Each set was equipped with a built-in antenna, which is usable in high signal strength areas only. All sets were listed by the Underwriters' Laboratories. Prices shown do not include either federal excise tax or charges for installation. Ratings are cr50.

A. Recommended

Hoffman, Model 631 (Hoffman Corp., Los Angeles) $200. Table model; wooden cabinet, mahogany veneer. 18 tubes plus 2 rectifiers and 14-in. rectangular picture tube. Picture mask size, 11½ in. x 8½ in. Volume (with on-off switch), Contrast, Channel Selector, and Fine Tuning controls on front panel. Apparent quality of parts, good. Workmanship, very good. Accessibility for servicing, very good. Frequency stability, good. Picture stability, good. Brightness, average. Picture resolution or fidelity, good (over-all band-width, 3.9-4.0 megacycles). Approximate sensitivity, 50 microvolts on both high and low bands (good). Acoustical quality on listening tests, average for table-model TV receiver; over-all electrical fidelity (corrected for de-emphasis), ±6 db. from 95 to 10,000 cycles, very good. Estimated tonal range, 150-4000 cycles, fair; 7-in. speaker used. Power output, 1.5 watts at 10% distortion at 400 cycles, fair. Leakage current, 0.3 ma., indicative of negligible shock hazard. **2**

Admiral, Model 26 R 36 (Admiral Corp., 3800 Cortland St., Chicago 47) $320. Console model; wood cabinet with doors covering picture tube and controls. Watts input, 235 (high). 20 tubes plus 3 rectifiers and 16-in. rectangular black picture tube. Picture mask size, 13½ in. wide x 10 in. high. Volume (with on-off switch), Picture Contrast, Station Selector, and Fine Tuning on front panel. Apparent quality of parts, good. Workmanship, good. Accessibility for servicing, good. Frequency stability, good. Picture stability, very good. Brightness, ample for daytime viewing in average room. Picture resolution or fidelity, very good (band-width, 4.2 mc.). Approximate sensitivity, 40 microvolts on low band, 80 microvolts on high band (good). Stability and linearity of sweep circuits, very good. Acoustical quality on listening tests, better than usual TV receiver; over-all electrical fidelity (corrected for de-emphasis), ±6 db. from 65 to 10,000 cycles, very good. Estimated tonal range, 50 to 10,000 cycles, very good; 10-in. speaker used. Power output, 3 watts at 10% distortion at 400 cycles (good, for a TV receiver). Leakage current (a measure of shock hazard present), negligible. **3**

B. Intermediate

Air King, Model 2016-R (Air King Products, Inc., 170 53 St., Brooklyn 32, N. Y.) $300. Console model; wood cabinet of poor appearance. Watts input, 220. Used 16 tubes plus 3 rectifiers and 16-in. rectangular black picture tube. Picture mask size, 13¼ in. x 10 in. Brightness, Vertical Hold, Horizontal Hold, Contrast, Volume (with on-off switch), Station Selector, and Fine Tuning controls on front panel. Apparent quality of parts, average to good. Workmanship, average. Accessibility for servicing, good. Frequency stability, fair (some drift). Picture stability, fair to good. Brightness, average. Picture resolution or fidelity, average (band-width, 3.0 mc. on low band; 3.2 mc. on high band). Approximate sensitivity, 100 microvolts on low band, 120 microvolts on high band (fair). Stability of sweep circuits, good. Linearity of sweep circuits: vertical, some distortion; horizontal, excellent. Acoustical quality on listening tests, about same as average console model radio; over-all electrical fidelity (corrected for de-emphasis), ± 6 db. from 95 to about 6000 c.p.s., poor. Estimated tonal range, 85 to 5000 cycles per second, fair; 10-in. speaker used. Power output, 1.8 watts at 10% distortion at 400 cycles (fair); distortion at 100 cycles, 18% (not good). Leakage current, 0.5 ma. (not considered excessive). **3**

General Electric, Model 16 C 115 (General Electric Co., Syracuse, N.Y.) $330. Console model; wood cabinet with doors covering picture tube and controls. Watts input, 150 (desirably low). 19 tubes plus 3 rectifiers and 16-in. picture tube. Picture mask size, 10 in. x 13½ in. Volume (with on-off switch), Contrast, Station Selector, and Fine Tuning controls on front panel. Apparent quality of parts, good. Workmanship, good. Accessibility for servicing, fair (parts were crowded in chassis). Frequency stability, good. Picture stability, good. Brightness, average to good. Picture resolution or fidelity, average to good (band-width, 3.0 mc. on low band; 3.3 mc. on high band). Approximate sensitivity, 60 microvolts on low band (good), 400 microvolts on high band (fair). Stability of sweep circuits, good. Sweep linearity, fair to good. Acoustical quality on listening tests, about average; output drops sharply above 4000 c.p.s.; over-all electrical fidelity (corrected for de-emphasis), ±6 db. from 55 to 3400 cycles, poor. Estimated tonal range, 65 to 4000 cycles (only fair); 12-in. speaker used. Power output, 3 watts at 10% distortion at 400 cycles (good). Leakage current on sample tested was 6 ma., indicative of a high degree of shock hazard. **3**

Hoffman Model 631

Ten Portable Typewriters

EVERYONE should understand that a portable typewriter is not a good substitute for a full-sized typewriter, either in length of life or convenience in typing. Nevertheless, there are many cases where the portable machine will be used, either because it costs less and is sufficiently durable for the job, or because portability is important.

Where a typewriter is to be used only occasionally, and ease of storage, portability, and relatively lower original cost are important, a portable typewriter should have preference over the heavier and more expensive office model. But the portable, with a life expectancy of perhaps 10 years, is not a substitute for a full-size typewriter in terms of speed of operation, durability and cost per year of use, for a good office typewriter properly cared for and maintained is practically a lifetime purchase.

CR has been reliably informed that portable typewriters made in this country are definitely not as good as those that are available in some European countries, particularly in Germany, which are made to closer tolerances, with parts better fitted.

Readers of CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETINS must bear in mind that an examination of a product such as a portable typewriter cannot be as objective as the test, let us say, of a washing machine or an electric toaster, since many elements of judgment and experience enter into the consideration of typewriters. No one can predict the life of a particular machine, for instance, or can guarantee that a machine, even though one of the recommended models, will stand up well in service and not need a certain amount of repairs, adjustment, servicing, etc., from time to time. Typewriters are intricate machines and being constantly changed, so that one cannot make fully reliable generalizations about the performance of current models until they have been in use under varying conditions, perhaps for several years. (Our readers, of course, would not care particularly to be informed about the performance of typewriters of past years' production.) This brief printed BULLETIN report has been condensed from a total of 35 single-spaced typewritten sheets in which the comments and discussions on portable typewriters in general, and on particular models, were given in considerable detail. Only a very small fraction of this material, of course, can be presented in this BULLETIN. In order to give more space to discussion and listings, we are not showing pictures of the typewriters; we believe that everyone either knows what the various portable typewriters look like, or can see sample machines at his dealer's, or in a department store, or can obtain advertising pictures of them from his dealer, or by application to the factory.

There has been a growing tendency lately to make portable typewriters more nearly like office machines in size and weight, which is apparently a recognition of the fact that the smaller typewriters lack something in solidity, sturdiness, and the ability to "stay put" and not to skid or "walk" on a table or desk. Of the 10 portable typewriters included in this report, the *Remington All New* was the heaviest, weighing, with its case, 20 lb. 13 oz., which is about half the weight of a commonly used standard office typewriter of a popular make; this portable weighed about 25 percent more than the standard-size portables and was about twice as heavy as the two extra-small-size machines (*Hermes*, *Smith-Corona Skyriter*).

Choice of a portable typewriter should depend somewhat on the purchaser's concept of the machine's function. Some users, for example, may consider a good tabulating device essential for their purposes, or triple spacing may be wanted as well as single and double spacing; or, if many cards are to be typed, an efficient card-holding device will be desirable. If portability and light weight are the most important characteristics from the user's standpoint, the *Hermes Baby* or the *Smith-Corona Skyriter*, the two lightest in weight of the machines tested, should be considered.

Quietness in operation may be extremely important to some users; but, among portables as delivered to dealers, a few of the quiet or "silent" machines have been found to make more noise than the models for which quietness was not specially claimed. Before making a purchase, therefore, the consumer should type on several machines of the model he has chosen, to determine for himself which he finds the most quiet in operation, with his particular touch. The noise made by the quietest portable is not nearly so low in volume as that of the office model "noiseless" machines, whose mechanism works on an entirely different principle. (The so-called "silent" portable is essentially a machine of standard construction with various modifications to reduce noise output.)

In the opinion of one engineer who has a good feeling for mechanical design, the following are reasonable specifications as to appearance without interference with function: contours should be rounded to discourage the catching of clothing on the machine; compactness should not impose unnecessary restrictions upon accessibility; finish should be low in light reflectivity, and chrome trim

subdued; keys should fit the fingers; controls should be large and rounded, feeling comfortable to the operator. In these respects, he rated first, and equal, the two *Smith-Coronas*, the *Silent* and the *Sterling*; second, both *Royals*, the *Quiet DeLuxe* and the *Arrow*, which, however, had undesirable almost flat celluloid-capped, chrome-rimmed keys. The *Remington All New* was rated third; on this model, although it was the largest of all the portables, the size of some controls had been restricted (the space bar, for example).

All the tested portables had the usual keyboard arrangement, back-spacers, margin release devices (except *Underwood Leader*, which had no margin release), shift keys on both sides of keyboard, and variable margin setting devices (except *Underwood Leader*, which had no right margin set). All the typewriters had single- and double-spacing devices. (The Swiss-made *Hermes Baby's* double-line spacing is equivalent to one and one-half line spacing on machines made in America; that is, the *Hermes Baby* will type three lines in the space taken up by two lines typed on domestic machines. The single spacing of the *Hermes* was the same as that of an American-made machine.) In addition, a few had triple-spacing devices. The operation of the shift key on all the machines except the two *Underwoods*, the *Smith-Corona Skyriter*, and the *Hermes Baby* lowered the type instead of raising the carriage. Because of the light weight of the carriages on the latter two machines, shift key operation would probably not cause noticeable fatigue, but it is believed that such an operation on the heavier machines for any length of time could be tiring for some operators. Some of the portables had centering levers which, at one touch, centered the carriage precisely. This feature helps considerably to prevent possibility of damage to the machine when closing the lid of the carrying case. In all the machines tested, but one, the close fit of the case restricted motion of the carriage.

All the portables tested had devices to permit typing at any desired position on the paper. The *variable line release*, common to all the portables, disengaged the ratchet from the platen, thereby causing the line spacer to start spacing from the new position of the platen when the ratchet was again engaged. Returning to the original line spacing requires engaging the ratchet and the platen at the correct position of the platen. The *automatic line retainer*, found on a few of the portables, disengaged a small roller from the ratchet, but permitted the ratchet and the platen to turn as one unit. Thus, when used, the *automatic line retainer* permitted typing at any desired position, and also instantly returning when desired to the original line spacing.

All but two of the machines (the *Hermes Baby* and the *Underwood Leader*) were provided with "touch control," a device permitting adjustment of key tension by the operator within various ranges, which roughly fall within the terms hard, medium, and soft, or "limp" to "tough," according to a scale of "points." The variation obtainable through the range of touch control provided on any single machine, however, is by no means as great as the difference in touch to be observed between two machines of different makes. Since different typewriters have a very different feel to the fingers, the prospective user should decide only by actual trial on the type of touch which best suits him.

The portable typewriters were given use tests over a considerable period of time. The chief criteria for judging them were sturdiness, freedom from crowding (both in keys and controls), quietness, flexibility, low light reflectivity (freedom of eye-fatigue from bright chrome plating, etc.), and alignment and spacing of type.

Prices, without federal excise tax, were those in effect at the time of the test. The federal excise tax comes to about 6 to 6½ percent of the retail selling price of the typewriter. The ratings list the chief features of the machines tested. Listings are in alphabetical order within rating groups. Ratings are cr50.

Standard-Size Portables

A. Recommended

Remington All New (Remington Rand, Inc., 315 Fourth Ave., New York 10) $84.50 ($79.50 without tabulator). Had a keyboard which was slightly smaller than the *Smith-Corona Silent* keyboard but larger than that of the *Royal Quiet DeLuxe*; single- and double-line spacing with clearly marked control; paper bail with two rubber rollers but lacked paper-holding fingers. Tabulator was considered (among tested machines) to be the most convenient to use, similar in construction to that of regular office machine; single control on left side of keyboard for both setting and clearing of tabs (80 tab stops for pica, 90 for elite type). Had three-position touch control; both variable line release and automatic line retainer. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs of small size located behind paper table, somewhat awkward to use. Carriage must be centered manually before closing case; machine does not lock securely to case (desirable that it should). Ribbon, with color control (black, red, stencil), was easiest of all to change. Most of controls accessible and conveniently located. Frame rigidity, above average. Gray satin-enamel finish with low light reflectivity. Case: covered with imitation leather. Judged to be fourth in quietness and considered to be fifth most desirable machine of those tested. **3**

Royal Arrow (Royal Typewriter Co., Inc., 2 Park Ave., New York 16) $79.50. Essentially the same machine as the *Royal Quiet DeLuxe*. Lacked lateral paper guide and tabulator. Judged to be third in quietness and considered to be the fourth most desirable machine of those tested. **2**

Royal Quiet DeLuxe (Royal Typewriter Co., Inc.) $89.50. Had a slightly smaller keyboard than the *Smith-Corona Silent*; single- and double-line spacing, control not marked; paper bail with two rubber rollers; lateral

paper guide; single folding card-holding finger. Had tabulator with five sliding tabs; touch control; both variable line release and automatic line retainer. Left margin, similar to *Royal* office machine "Magic Margin," was set by placing carriage in desired position and touching "Magic Margin" control; right margin set manually by sliding tab. Carriage must be centered manually before closing case and was locked in position only when case was closed; machine is securely locked to case (desirable for travelers). Ribbon, with color control (black, red, stencil), easy to change. Controls were somewhat crowded, some being rather close to frame. Frame rigidity, average. Gray crackle finish with low light reflectivity but more reflection than on *Smith-Corona Silent*. Case: molded fiber covered with basket-weave-pattern fabric, metal-bound at points of greatest wear. A newly purchased *Royal* portable may require some adjustment, according to a man with considerable experience in the trade, which in his opinion might be because of poor factory inspection. Judged to be the quietest and considered to be the third most desirable machine of those tested. **3**

Smith-Corona Silent (L. C. Smith & Corona Typewriters, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y.) $89.50. Had standard-size keyboard; single-, double-, and triple-line spacing with clearly marked control; paper bail with three rubber rollers; lateral paper guide; two paper-holding fingers. Had tabulator with six removable tabs; touch control; two folding paper support arms. Only portable having a platen removable without tools; both variable line release and automatic line retainer. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs readily accessible from the front of the machine. Carriage centered by lever and was securely locked when case was closed; machine locked to case (desirable, especially for travelers). Ribbon, with color control (black, red, stencil), easy to change. Controls accessible and conveniently located. Frame rigidity, above average. Fine grain, tan crackle-enamel finish of low light reflectivity. Case: wood covered with black imitation leather. Judged second quietest machine and considered the most desirable machine, overall, of those tested. **3**

Smith-Corona Sterling (L. C. Smith & Corona Typewriters, Inc.) $84.50. Essentially the same machine as the *Smith-Corona Silent* but lacked paper-holding fingers. Paper bail had only two rollers and machine had variable line release only. Fifth quietest machine, and considered second most desirable machine of those tested. **2**

B. Intermediate

Smith-Corona Clipper (L. C. Smith & Corona Typewriters, Inc.) $79.50. Had standard-size keyboard, same as *Smith-Corona Sterling*; single-, double-, and triple-line spacing with clearly marked control; two small paper fingers with metal rollers instead of a paper bail. Lacked tabulator. Had touch control; variable line release. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs readily accessible from front of machine. Carriage centered by centering device and locked when machine was in case; machine securely locked to case. Ribbon, with color control (black, red, stencil), easy to change. Controls accessible and conveniently located. Frame rigidity, above average. Fine grain, tan crackle-enamel finish with low light reflectivity. Case: wood covered with black imitation leather. Judged to make about as much noise as a standard office machine. **2**

Underwood Universal (Underwood Corp., 1 Park Ave., New York 16) $75. Keyboard same size as that of the *Royal* portables. Had single-, double-, and triple-line spacing, control not marked; paper bail with two rubber rollers. Lacked tabulator and paper-holding fingers. Had touch control; variable line release. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs, considered relatively inaccessible and difficult to use. Carriage locked when in case; machine not locked securely to case (undesirable). Ribbon, with color control (black, red, stencil), troublesome to change. Controls somewhat inaccessible and difficult to work. Frame rigidity, average. Black crackle finish had low light reflectivity but "gingerbread" chrome trim caused bright reflections which might cause eye fatigue. Case: wood covered with black imitation leather. One of the three machines of those tested that was judged to make the most noise. Considered one of the less desirable machines in the group studied. **2**

C. Not Recommended

Underwood Leader (Underwood Corp.) $59.50. Similar to *Underwood Universal* but lacked touch control, margin release, right marginal stop, and ribbon color control. Used two paper-holding fingers without rollers instead of paper bail. Had no carriage lock and machine did not lock securely to case. In sample tested by CR the motion of the carriage was not sufficiently restricted when the case was closed. Judged to make the most noise of the machines tested. **1**

Small-Size Portables

The two smallest typewriters tested are rated in a separate group because of their specific design for extreme lightness, compactness, and portability. The *Smith-Corona Skyriter*, the heavier of the two machines, weighed about 9 pounds, case included. Of the two, the *Hermes Baby* was considered to be the more sturdily constructed machine. In our opinion these machines would not stand as much use and abuse as a standard-size portable. Where lightness and portability are important factors and where most of the work is ordinary letter writing or "narrative typing," or where it is important to have a typewriter that can be slipped into a briefcase, these two machines will serve the purpose.

B. Intermediate

Hermes Baby (Distributed by Paillard Products, Inc., 265 Madison Ave., New York 16; made in Switzerland) $64.50. Smallest of all the machines tested. Had smallest size keyboard, but characters were arranged in same way as on a standard keyboard; single- and double-line spacing (see text), control clearly marked; paper bail without rollers; single folding paper support arm; variable line release. Lacked tabulator and touch control. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs, readily accessible and easy to use. Considered fairly noisy in operation. Ribbon (no color control), easy to change. Controls were crowded and inconveniently located.

Rough, gray crackle finish of low light reflection. Bottom of machine built as one unit with case. Case: pressed metal, finished same as machine. Judged to be a sturdy machine, suitable where extreme portability and light weight are important and where only uncomplicated material will be typed, ordinarily. (*Hermes Baby* has been replaced by *Hermes Rocket*, which is essentially the same machine.) **1**

Smith-Corona Skyriter (L. C. Smith & Corona Typewriters, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y.) $64.50. Had keyboard same as *Royals* (larger than *Hermes Baby*); single- and double-line spacing, control not marked; paper bail without rollers. Lacked tabulator. Had touch control; two folding paper support arms; variable line release. Left and right margins set by sliding tabs. Ribbon (no color control) easy to change. Controls crowded and somewhat inaccessible. Dull, tan crackle-enamel finish of low light reflection. Bottom of machine built as one unit with case. Case: pressed metal, finished same as machine. Judged to be quieter in operation than the *Hermes Baby*. **1**

Automobile Design

THE subscriber's letter criticizing the present trend in automobile design printed in the July 1950 issue apparently struck a responsive chord in our subscribers' minds, for a number were prompted to write to CR giving their own experiences and views on this subject. A very few disagreed with our position; one, an aeronautical engineer, went so far as to send a humorous pencil sketch to show how ridiculous our specifications would be if carried out, in comparison with many of the sleek, eye-appealing cars of today (which are uncomfortable, unsafe, hard to park and to drive, and are lacking in many other respects). Actually, the 1950 *Plymouth*, the final report on which appears in this issue, comes fairly close to meeting CR's specifications, as it provides ample headroom and excellent road vision for the driver, and does not sacrifice as much for speed and flashing acceleration as many other cars do.

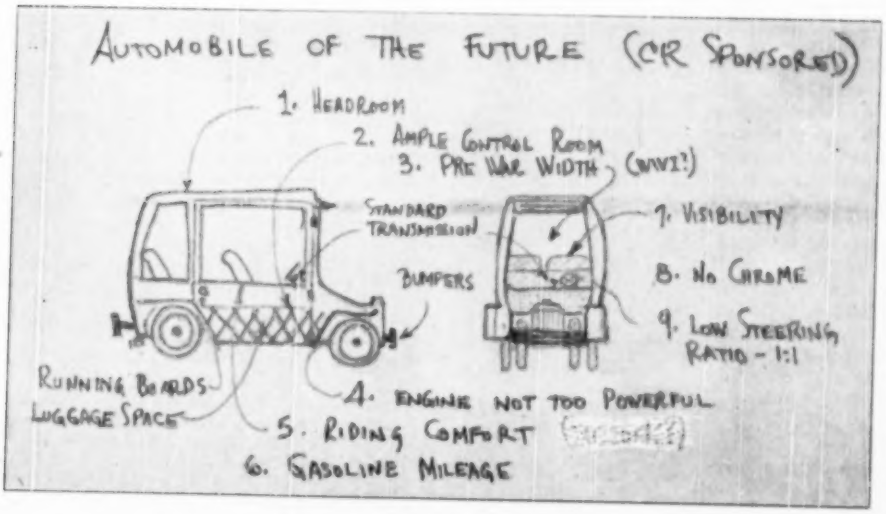
Indicative of the backward trend in design of cars is the conversation of four professional men, reported to us as follows by one of our subscribers, also a professional man.

Says A (Ph.D., Princeton): "I wish I could buy a new 1935 or 1936 Chevy!" (He's now driving a 1948 *Packard*.)

Says B (Ph.D., Cornell): "I wish I could buy a new 1940 Chrysler." (He's now driving a 1940 *Chrysler* and is about to get a 1950 one.)

Says C (M.S., Pittsburgh): "If I'd been buying a new Pontiac, I'd like to have bought a new 1940."

Man D was silent — he has a 1949 3-holer, *Buick*.



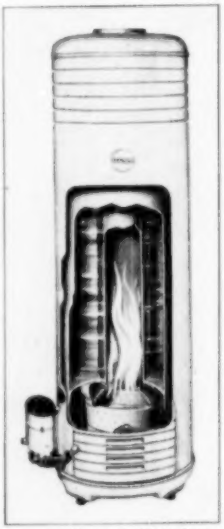
Automatic Oil-Fired Storage Water Heaters

OIL-FIRED automatic storage water heaters are manufactured by a relatively small number of firms. As such heaters are safer to operate than those designed for bottled gas, they are particularly popular for farms and in rural communities where manufactured gas is not available and where electricity is either high in cost (say above 3 cents a kilowatt-hour) or electric service not too reliable.

The hot-water heaters listed are all identical in principle and consist of a galvanized steel storage tank, usually with some insulation, containing a single center flue. The heater is fired by a vaporizing pot-type oil burner. Thermostatic and protective control is provided by a constant-leveling device to feed oil at a predetermined rate whenever the thermostat calls for heat; when heat is not required, the oil flow is reduced to that needed to maintain a small pilot flame. A manually reset trip shuts off the flow of oil, usually with a snap action, in the event the burner should become flooded with oil.

Insulation of the Tank

Most of the oil-fired water heaters are not fully insulated, for a very good reason, especially on the smaller tanks. Oil burners of the vaporizing pot type have a minimum safe operating consumption of about ½ gallon of oil per day. To insulate a tank to the point where the amount of heat provided would build up the water temperature faster than the heat could be dissipated by radiation and other losses would be to invite serious trouble during periods when no hot water is being used. Thus, in this type of equipment, insulation must always be carefully balanced against the minimum heat input, for safety against overheating or possible explosion. *Above all, it is hazardous in the extreme to ignore a manufacturer's judgment by adding insulation to an existing model.*



Courtesy of Duo-Therm

Typical oil-burning water heater.

Operating Costs

The fixed minimum oil consumption and restricted use of insulation produce rather high stand-by costs (operating costs continuing when no hot water is being used). At 14 cents a gallon for fuel oil, ½ gallon a day corresponds to $2.10 worth of oil per month, just to keep the heater and its tank in readiness to supply hot water.

Hot-water usage varies very greatly and is thus impossible to estimate with any degree of certainty. However, assuming typical hot-water consumption as 15 gallons per person per day, costs above the stand-by cost just explained can be taken as approximately 4 gallons of oil per adult in the family, per month. Each child or servant should be considered as equivalent to 1½ or 2 adults; each washing machine as equivalent to ½ an adult (based on two loads of clothes a week). On this basis, Table I has been prepared from which the approximate monthly oil costs of any typical family for hot-water heating can be computed.

Table I

ESTIMATED MONTHLY COST OF OPERATING AN OIL-FIRED AUTOMATIC WATER HEATER

	Cost per Month with Oil				
	@ 12c	@ 13c	@ 14c	@ 15c	@ 16c
Per Adult	48c	52c	56c	60c	64c
Per Child (1½)	72c	78c	84c	90c	96c
Per Servant (2)	96c	$1.04	$1.12	$1.20	$1.28
Washing Machine (½) 2 loads/week	24c	26c	28c	30c	32c
Stand-by Cost (no water drawn)	$1.80	$1.95	$2.10	$2.25	$2.40

Example: The probable monthly cost with a family of 2 adults, 2 children, 1 servant, and a washing machine, with oil at 14c a gallon, would be (2 x 56) + (2 x 84) + (1.12) + (28) + 2.10 (stand-by) = 1.12 + 1.68 + 1.12 + 0.28 + 2.10 or $6.30.

Recovery Rate and Selection of a Size

The size of the storage tank and the "recovery rate" (also known as the continuous maximum output or rating) should be carefully considered before the purchase of an oil-fired water heater is made. The recovery rate determines the amount of water which can be heated in an hour to any given temperature, either for immediate use or for storage. Manufacturers of this class of heaters tend to select a water temperature rise of 60°F as a basis of specifying rate of recovery. With a 60°F rise, 55°F incoming water would be heated only to 115°, which is low. Most water-heating codes and specifications call for rating of heaters on the basis of a 100° rise (for example, from 55° incoming to 155° for the water as delivered for use). In view of the increasing popularity of such appliances as automatic washing machines and dishwashers, the demand for higher water temperatures is increasing. Thus, in listing recovery rates, CR has used manufacturers' 100°F rise figures where available and converted all other figures to this base.

On a basis of 100°F temperature rise, oil-fired heaters have a relatively high recovery rate. Those with the smaller 20- to 40-gallon storage tanks are usually capable of completely reheating the water in the tank in from 45 minutes to 1½ hours; with the larger 50- and 65-gallon tanks, in 1¼ to 1¾ hours. This is to be compared with a standard rate of 3 hours for most coal-fired heaters, 3 hours for separate tanks heated from the house-heating boiler, and 6 hours or longer for electric heaters. As this rapid recovery results in replenishing the hot-water supply in the tank more quickly, somewhat smaller tanks can sometimes be selected than for coal-fired or electric water heaters. However, despite the favorable recovery rate, oil-fired water heaters are not quick heaters, will deliver only cold or moderately warm water for an hour or more after the useful tank capacity (usually not over 2/3 of the total capacity) has been drawn off.

The size of tank required depends largely upon the amount of water likely to be used at any one time. Shower or tub baths may be expected to require about 10 gallons of hot water (15 gallons total water). Thus with a 20-gallon tank, from which about 13 gallons of hot water can be drawn off before the incoming cold water lowers the temperature considerably, some planning may be necessary, while two or more baths with less than an hour between become impracticable. A 30-gallon tank, however, will allow about two baths, provided there has been no recent substantial use of hot water. Both automatic and non-automatic washing machines may require up to 30 gallons of hot water per load, ruling out any oil water heater using a tank smaller than 40 gallons capacity.

Installation

The National Board of Fire Underwriters requires that the following minimum clearances be maintained between the oil-fired heater and the walls: sides and rear, 6 in.; front, 48 in.; flue pipe (except where it turns to enter the chimney), 18 in.

The fuel-tank outlet should not be less than 15 in. nor more than 10 ft. above the base of the heater. The oil feed line should not be less than ¼-in. pipe with ground-joint unions or ⅜-in. copper tubing. There must be a shut-off valve in this line, preferably at the supply tank.

While few of the manufacturers mention a safety or relief valve in their literature, all domestic water heaters very definitely should be equipped with a combination device that will permit the escape of confined water to a drain or other safe place when either a given temperature or pressure is exceeded.

Servicing

Vaporizing pot-type burners have two general characteristics, both of which require very close attention. (1) They must be operated in an accurately level position, since any tilting may lead to difficulties or dangers in the combustion of the fuel. (2) The hot end of the oil piping tends to clog with carbon or sediment in a few weeks' time and therefore must be cleaned frequently. Some models have convenient external rods for this purpose; on others the rod will be found behind the door on the casing. In any case it is desirable to have the salesman demonstrate how to clean the line before the appliance is purchased. Do not accept as an excuse that models not equipped with any such provision "will never have to be cleaned."

The burner and inside of the combustion chamber and flue should be carefully examined for accumulations of soot *once every month*, and thoroughly cleaned if necessary. Remember that *a dirty oil burner is always a dangerous oil burner.*

* * *

Except as noted, all burner models listed are approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters for use with No. 1 or No. 2 oil *only*.

Retail prices shown include the 10 percent federal excise tax. Freight and installation is usually extra but, as the latter involves only the connection of the smokepipe and two ¾-in. pipes without any electric wiring or gas piping, it should not be too expensive.

A. Recommended

Dowagiac Oil-Burning Water Heater (Dowagiac Steel Furnace Co., Dowagiac, Mich.) Five models available with storage capacities ranging from 20 to 65 gal. Choice of 2 finishes. Rock wool insulation on top only. Equipped with barometric draft damper, external cleanout rod for freeing oil intake line from coke or sediment. Magnesium anode rod available at an extra charge. The following ratings and oil consumption as given by the manufacturer seem consistent with good practice; efficiencies as calculated run from about 60% for the three smaller units to 73-75% for the two larger. *Model*

WH-20, 7-in. burner, 24-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.24 gal./hr., 20-gal. storage capacity, $87 list; *Model WH-30*, same burner, recovery, and consumption, 30-gal. storage capacity, $91 list; *Model WH-40*, same burner, recovery, and consumption, 40-gal. storage capacity, $99 list; *Model WH-50*, 8-in. burner, 32-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.26 gal./hr., 50-gal. storage, $110 list; *Model WH-65*, 10-in. burner, 48-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.38 gal./hr., 65-gal. storage capacity, $126.

Duo-Therm (Duo-Therm Div., Motor Wheel Corp., Lansing 3, Mich.) Three models with 20-, 30-, and 45-gal. storage tanks. White baked-enamel finish. Mineral wool insulation on top only. Equipped with barometric draft damper. Double base to protect floor. Is listed by both Underwriters' Laboratory and Canadian Standards Assn. Manufacturer's ratings and suggested list prices: *Model 40*, 13-gal. recovery per hour, 20-gal. storage tank, $121; *Model 60*, 18-gal. recovery per hour, 30-gal. storage tank, $143; *Model 90*, 33-gal. recovery per hour, 45-gal. storage tank, $176. Prices are approximately $10 higher in some states due to increased freight rates.

Evans Oil-Fired Water Heaters (Evans Products Co., Plymouth, Mich.) Three models with 20-, 30-, and 45-gal. storage capacity. Baked white enamel with red trim. Rock wool insulation on top only. Galvanized boiler of copper-bearing steel. Recovery ratings as shown by the manufacturer for *Models 228* and *238* are not consistent with oil consumptions given as they would indicate efficiencies over 80% (considerably higher than what can probably be achieved). Ratings and prices *as given by the manufacturer*: *Model 228*, 8 in. burner, 28-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.2 gal./hr., 20-gal. storage tank capacity, price not available; *Model 238*, 7-in. burner, same rating and oil consumption, 30-gal. storage capacity, $143; *Model 248*, 10-in. burner, 43-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.38 gal./hr., 45-gal. storage capacity, $176.

Gillen Oil-Burning Water Heater (J. L. Gillen Co., 204 E. High St., Dowagiac, Mich.) Three models available with 30- and 45-gal. storage tanks. White baked-enamel jackets trimmed in stainless steel. *Fiberglas* insulation on both top and sides (top only on *Model A-30*). Built-in magnesium anode rods, one on *Models A-30* and *OW-30*, two on *OW-45* (on *Model A-30* anode is an extra at $3). Oil control enclosed within casing. Designed for No. 1 fuel oil only. Manufacturer furnishes a comprehensive instruction manual for installation and operation. Manufacturer's ratings and prices: *Model A-30*, 30-gal. recovery per hour, 30-gal. storage capacity, approximately $103; *Model OW-30*, 39-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption (high fire) 0.24 gal./hr., 30-gal. storage capacity, approximately $109; *Model OW-45*, 44½-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.27 gal./hr., 45-gal. storage capacity, approximately $133.

Hoffman Oil-Burning Water Heater (Clayton & Lambert Mfg. Co., Louisville 10, Ky.) One model, 30-gal. storage tank capacity, $112. Recovery rate, 21 gal./hr. Baked white enamel with black trim. *Fiberglas* insulation, top and sides. Equipped with ceramic and cast-iron baffles to increase efficiency.

Lochinvar Oil-Fired Water Heater (Michigan Tank & Furnace Co., 14101 Prairie Ave., Detroit 4) Two models 25- and 35-gal. storage. *Lochinvar* multi-stage modulating burner. Insulation, rock wool on top and reflective insulation and air space on sides. Two stainless steel burner baffles. Equipped with magnesium anode. External cleaning rod. Complete instruction and service manual. Approved by Underwriters for No. 1 oil or kerosene. Manufacturer's rating and prices: *Model FJA*, 20 gal. per hour recovery, 25-gal. storage, $78; *Model GJA*, 20-gal. recovery, 35-gal. storage, $86.

Norge Automatic Oil-Burning Water Heater (Norge Heat Div., Borg-Warner Corp., 672 E. Woodbridge St., Detroit 26) One model only: *WO-30B*, 30-gal. storage tank, calculated recovery rate 23 gal./hr., $125. White enamel finish. Galvanized welded alloy steel tank. Tank insulated throughout; rock wool on top and corrugated asbestos on sides.

Scotsman Oil-Fired Water Heater (American Gas Machine Co., Albert Lea, Minn.) Three models, 20-, 30-, and 45-gal. storage capacity. Baked white enamel with light gray trim. *Fibre Glass* insulation on top only. Magnesium anode, standard equipment. 6-in. baffled flue. Control unit housed in the tank casing on *Models 4783* and *4784*. Dip tube provided to carry cold water to bottom of tank and so to reduce stratification and permit all water connections at top. Stainless steel burner. Manufacturer's rating on *Models 4582* and *4783* considered consistent with oil consumptions shown, indicating efficiencies of about 65%. Ratings on *Model 4784* seem slightly high, indicating consumptions nearer 1/3 gal./hr. than the 0.29 shown at the manufacturer's given recovery rate. Manufacturer's ratings and prices: *Model 4582*, 20-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.18 gal./hr., 20-gal. storage tank capacity, $102; *Model 4783*, 30-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.27 gal./hr., 30-gal. storage capacity, $121; *Model 4784*, 38-gal. recovery per hour, oil consumption 0.29 gal./hr., 45-gal. storage capacity, $152.

Corrections and Emendations to Consumers' Research Monthly Bulletin

Preventing Freeze-Up of Auto Gasoline Lines
Page 22, Col. 1
Nov. '48 Bulletin

The last sentence of the first paragraph should be changed to read as follows: "The quantity used should not exceed one-half pint for a tankful of fuel, and less will ordinarily suffice." It is better to use small doses of a few ounces repeated every few tankfuls during "below freezing" weather, than to attempt to remove all the water in the tank by a single dose of the alcohol. Either ethanol or methanol may be used.

A consumer should under no circumstances attempt to remove water from the gasoline tank by loosening the drain plug in the bottom of the tank and permitting the water to leak out. This method, though effective, is very dangerous, as a quantity of gasoline may be spilled on the ground or the garage floor causing a serious fire and explosion hazard. The drain plugs are usually very tight, being rusted in and difficult to remove; an attempt to remove one may result in tearing of the tank bottom, causing loss of its entire explosive and flammable contents.

Off the Editor's Chest

(*Continued from page 2*)

attitude on the part of federal officials and politicians manifested itself in a growing disposition to take a higher and higher proportion of the consumer's income away from him in taxes, both direct and indirect, and to parcel out the benefits therefrom (after large deductions for costs of administration under federal office-holders) in ways that those in control deemed expedient and proper.

The average American citizen with little knowledge of the economic history of European and ancient sumptuary laws and customs is likely to be persuaded that a system of rigid economic controls is needed to win a difficult and costly war for which we were ill prepared. Those able economists and other experts who hold that general price and rationing controls have a crippling effect on the American economy, with its tremendous and unique capacity for production, too often have trouble in finding a forum for their views where they can be heard by the man in the street. Many people hearing or reading only the widespread propaganda for one point of view may not have an opportunity to examine the clear evidence that price and rationing controls have at times been intended to serve other ends than winning a war with a minimum of hardship to people in general.

One clear indication that the price controls of the last war were intended by some OPA officials to become a permanent part of our economy is to be found in a letter to The New York Times of one regional OPA executive who was trying to counteract the mounting pressure of consumers in the spring of 1946 to do away with the OPA entirely. "Like many other examples of social progress," he wrote, "the time for price control has arrived and no arguments can dispel that towering economic reality. Our most profitable course is so to design price control that, like all other accepted social controls, it will yield greater freedom because of our having it."

Those who are not trained in the use of semantics will have difficulty in comprehending how you can design a *control* either by a government official in Washington, D. C., or any group of ration board members so that it will yield *greater freedom* for people throughout the country.

More forthright in its frank admission of the economic planner's deep-seated distrust of the consumer's ability to spend his own money to best advantage was the comment of Eveline M. Burns, professor of social security at Columbia College and adviser to several federal government departments. Writing in favor of compulsory health insurance, she took this position:

> . . .in our kind of free society I see no way of ensuring that people will spend money "more wisely," at least so long as we permit advertising or are unwilling to check the consumption of certain commodities deemed "unessential" by levying prohibitive taxes on them or by other methods. It seems to me more reasonable to accept the fact that most people are not wholly wise in spending their private incomes; and. . .that we should tax all incomes sufficiently to provide whatever our society regards as the acceptable minimum of health service, leaving people to spend the rest of their incomes as wisely or foolishly as they see fit.

Since Professor Burns has qualified as an expert in the problems of health and economic security, it is perhaps natural that she should express a preference for seeing that her own field is taken care of, and if the planners were to secure general control of our economy, this one example would undoubtedly be extended to various essentials of daily living. Speculation on what the outcome might be can be based on readily observable tendencies in Great Britain, where those who favor national planning and a managed economy are trying out their theories with the aid of billions of dollars in subsidies from the United States.

The British have long been a meat-eating people, but rationing and restrictions have made substantial shifts in their food consumption from meat, fish, poultry, and game, to increased amounts of potatoes, grains, and vegetables. It was possible to justify such a lowered standard of living as a necessary measure during a wartime economy, but the all-wise planners are attempting to perpetuate this depreciated dietary on the ground that preference for high-protein foods such as meat is merely unlightened custom. In place of the traditional breakfast bacon, for example, Dr. Edith Summerskill, a top Socialist official, recommended oatmeal, with the comment that longings for meat were an anachronistic hangover from the days of capitalism, when "meat was an index of prosperity."

There are no doubt many in England who are able to get along on the diet their government permits them to buy, but it is being observed that the lower level of protein that the British worker is able to get is making for lower levels of production. Thus the planners defeat their own ends.

All consumers are naturally concerned about rising prices, but they will have sold their birthright for a mess of pottage if they permit the imposition of rigid controls in the United States on the production and distribution of consumer commodities in the belief that such methods are effective in winning

a war and preventing inflation. To fight abroad for freedom and democracy, at the same time inviting the imposition of a totalitarian economic system at home, would be an ironic social and economic tragedy. Freedom of choice for consumers is a fundamental asset of the American way of life that distinguishes our civilization from that of totalitarian countries. Sugar may seem like a small item to fight for, but it is apparently something that many consumers prize highly, and it is well to remember that the Burnses and the Summerskills once in power may well decide that in the interests of people's health and the preservation of their teeth, considerably less sugar should be made available on a ration basis than is currently to be had even after the hoarders get through stocking their pantries. In this country what man would want a lady bureaucrat advising him to eat cereal instead of meat! If for reasons of economy, in order to make monthly down payments on a television set or a car, he *chooses* to do with less meat, that is another matter. The fact that he makes the decision himself renders the sacrifice involved tolerable, and who is to say which is the wiser choice?

1950 Plymouth

BECAUSE of the prolonged Chrysler strike the rating of the *Plymouth* in the April and July 1950 BULLETINS was necessarily tentative, being based on limited tests of a car borrowed from an owner who had bought his car before the strike began. CR has since purchased and driven a new *Plymouth* and has thus had an opportunity to test the car more thoroughly. On the basis of these tests, it is considered that the *A*— and *A* ratings appearing in the April and July BULLETINS should now be changed to *A*+.

This *Plymouth De Luxe 4-door* sedan, was delivered in Washington, New Jersey, for about $1650 (factory price $1465, tax $86, freight $70, conditioning and handling $20; windshield wipers, vacuum booster, and rear bumper guards account for the remainder); the corresponding *Ford V-8* was $1675, the *Chevrolet Styleline Special* $1557.

Curb weight without passengers was 3284 lb. (1756 lb. on front, 1528 lb. rear), the front being 228 lb. heavier than the rear. (The corresponding *Chevrolet* was also 228 lb., the *Ford V-8* 460 lb. heavier at the front than the rear, with no passengers.) With two passengers (average weight 165 lb.) in the front seat and three in the rear, the weight on the rear wheels was about 70 lb. greater than on the front. The *Plymouth* was exceptionally good both in road visibility and headroom for the driver; headroom in both front and rear seats was sufficient for persons of above average height. To appreciate the advantages of good design from the comfort and road vision standpoint, motorists interested in the new cars would do well to sit in and drive a *Plymouth*, and compare it with other 1950 models, which CR has criticized in respect to these same qualities. The *Plymouth* was very quiet on the road, and was considered the best in its price class in "handling" qualities. (Comparable with the *Mercury* in that respect.) The riding qualities were found to be very good and superior to those of the *Chevrolet*, comparable indeed with those of larger and heavier cars. Acceleration from 20 to 50 m.p.h. on level road, 13 seconds, which was somewhat less good than the *Chevrolet* (at 12.2 seconds). Gasoline mileage was slightly better than 18 m.p.g. The only important disadvantages that could be charged against this car were: clutch action was too stiff; front seat cushion springs were too soft; too much chrome on instrument panel; inside finish seems "out of date" in style and not as attractive as other new cars; hood over engine does not lift high enough to provide easy access; new steering post gear shift arrangement considered not as sure in a "pinch" or as desirable in general as the standard type.

In general, the car gave the impression it had been designed by engineers *for very good road vision and comfortable transportation* instead of by advertising and sales-minded men. It seems to CR to be a good car for a family wanting solid merit rather than "super-performance" and novel or flashy features. It would not, however, in CR's opinion be the preferred car for the hard fast driver who must maintain high speeds under difficult road conditions. The performance in respect to stability of steering under difficult conditions was considered to be not as good as on the *Ford* and *Chevrolet*. This could be a factor in a tight spot, where exactness of the car's response to a steering movement would be of vital importance. Increasing tire inflation pressure by about 2 lb. above the nominal 24 lb. per sq. in. will help increase the steering stability of the car.

Miniature Camera

B. Intermediate

Kodak Pony 828 (Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y.) $30, including federal excise tax. Used *Bantam* (No. 828) roll film to make 8 pictures 28 x 40 mm. (1-3/32 x 1-9/16 in.). Equipped with *Kodak Anastor* f:4.5 coated lens of 51 mm. focal length. Could be focused from 2.5 ft. to infinity by rotation of front lens cell. *Kodak Flash 200* shutter, a type which requires resetting before each exposure, with rated speeds of 1/200, 1/100, 1/50, 1/25 second, and bulb. Body of camera is made of plastic. Actual shutter speeds at speed settings of 1/200th and 1/100th second were approximately the same; the other speeds were approximately proportional to their marked values, as is desirable. Lens quality, good; focusing scale, accurate. As the camera was not of satisfactorily rigid construction, it was considered not to be of a type that would have a long useful life if much used, unless handled with exceptional care.

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Bedsprings, box† ... Apr., 10-12

Carbon tetrachloride products, care in use ... Sept., 4, 29
Carriages, baby, folding† ... Mar., 5-9
Clocks, electric† ... May, 18-19
Clothing
- bag for dampening† ... June, 27
- garment carrier, plastic† ... Aug., 30
- gloves, men's† ... Feb., 5-8
- name tapes† ... June, 28
- raincoats, men's, plastic film† ... May, 16-17
- shoes, care ... Sept., 11
- soft-soled, use ... Sept., 29-30
- suits, men's† ... Apr., 5-8
- women's, sales pressure ... Sept., 3

Coffees, soluble† ... Aug., 24-25; Sept., 30
Corrections and emendations ... Jan., 14; Feb., 20; Mar., 13; Apr., 16; June, 17; Aug., 8; Sept., 18
Cosmetics
- lipsticks† ... June, 18-19
- nail lacquers† ... Sept., 19-20
- powders, baby and toilet† ... May, 12
- face† ... May, 10-12
- wrinkle remover, so-called† ... June, 28

Cotton, high prices ... Sept., 4
CR's Bulletins, back numbers, special school rates ... Sept., 13
- in microfilm form ... June, 19

CR's name misleadingly used ... Sept., 4

Dehumidifier† ... Sept., 14-15
Dentifrices, ammoniated ... Aug., 4
- penicillin ... July, 3

Detergents, "no-rinse" ... Aug., 29
- synthetic, home laundering ... Aug., 20-22

Dish towels, serviceability ... Sept., 30
Dogs, feeding ... Sept., 4
Dryers, clothes† ... Aug., 5-8

Editorial ... each issue, page 2
Etching paste, for glass† ... Jan., 30; June, 28

Month and Page

Floor seals† ... May, 22-23
Food
- chemical additives, use ... Sept., 3
- orange juice, frozen† ... Mar., 12-13

Furniture
- repair gadget† ... Mar., 23
- points to watch in buying ... Sept., 26

Garbage, disposal unit† ... Feb., 8

Heating
- blowers for burning buckwheat coal† ... May, 13-15
- fuels, solid, hand-firing ... Apr., 20-22
- warm-air furnaces, automatically-fired† ... Jan., 18-21
- gravity and forced-circulation† ... Feb., 22-26

Heels, rubber, men's† ... June, 11
Home building, booklet ... Sept., 3

Iron, combination steam and dry† ... Jan., 26

Lawn mowers, hand† ... July, 15-16
- power† ... Aug., 9-12

Liquefiers, liquidizers, or blenders† ... Feb., 9-10

Moths, clothes, prevention and control ... Aug., 15-19
Motion pictures† ... each issue

Odors, household, elimination, pamphlet available ... Aug., 4
Oiler, fountain-pen style† ... Aug., 29-30
Ovenware, glass† ... Feb., 13-14

Paint brushes, care ... May, 17
Paints, house and barn — II† ... Apr., 17-19
Phonograph
- pickup cartridge, replacing† ... Jan., 37-38
- record, novelty† ... Sept., 4
- recorders, tape and wire† ... Jan., 15-17; May, 23
- records† ... each issue
- brush (Omegatron)† ... Mar., 25
- turntables, pickup arms and accessories† ... Mar., 14-15

Photographic
- books† ... July, 18
- camera, "imitation reflex"† ... Jan., 33
- motion picture† ... Jan., 32
- cameras, European plate and film-pack† ... Sept., 20
- photofinishers† ... Jan., 33
- projectors, slide† ... Jan., 31-32

Picture hanger† ... Jan., 33
Planer, rotary† ... Feb., 21
Polishes, shoe† ... June, 15-17

Month and Page

Popcorn, increased sales ... Sept., 3
Purchasing power, hour's earnings, 1914 and 1948 ... July, 4

Radiation hazards ... Mar., 24-26
Radio
- amplifiers, audio† ... Feb., 15-18
- boosters, FM† ... Feb., 12
- tuners, FM and AM-FM† ... Mar., 18-19

Ranges, electric† ... July, 19-23
Refrigerators† ... Sept., 5-11
Rugs and carpets, cleaning, on the floor ... Aug., 12

Sanitary napkins† ... Aug., 25-28
Scales, bathroom† ... Sept., 21-22
Scouring powders† ... June, 12-14
Sewing machine, toy† ... Sept., 22-23
Sewing techniques, home, for nylon fabrics ... Sept., 3
Shavers, electric† ... Sept., 12-13
- conversion device for use with car battery† ... Sept., 13

Shears, pinking† ... Mar., 16-17
Sheets† ... Sept., 16-18
Silver-plating solution† ... Sept., 25-26
Soaps, laundry, household† ... Apr., 13-16
Sprayer, paint, electric† ... Jan., 34

Tables, folding† ... May, 30; Aug., 30
Teeth, effect of candy ... Sept., 29
- effect of phosphoric acid ... July, 29

Telescope, inexpensive† ... May, 9
Television
- antennas† ... May, 24-26
- boosters† ... Feb., 11-12
- receivers† ... May, 5-7; July, 17-18
- tuner† ... May, 7

Tractor, garden† ... May, 20-21

Vacuum cleaners† ... Jan., 5-8

Washing machines, automatic† ... Jan., 27-30; May, 8-9
- hot-water supply ... June, 8-10
- nonautomatic† ... May, 9
- replacement bags for National Watermatic ... July, 23

Waxes, floor† ... Mar., 21-23
Weed killers† ... Aug., 22
Whiskeys† ... Aug., 13-14
Windows, storm and screen combination, aluminum† ... Apr., 23

X-rays, diagnostic use, not harmless ... June, 19

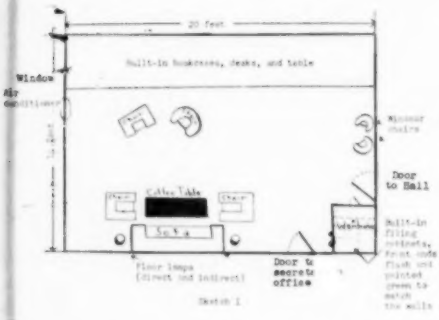
†indicates that listings of names or brands are included.

An Office of Unusual Design

By Daniel R. Davies, Executive Officer
Div. of Administration and Guidance, Teachers' College, Columbia University

THE first reaction of visitors entering my office is that they have made a mistake and inadvertently stepped into someone's living room. Indirect lighting, three green walls and a green broadloom rug, a yellow ceiling and window wall, sofa and lounge chairs, coffee table, built-in bookcases — all combine to create a pleasant place to work.

Although this is an office, no desks, tables or filing cabinets are visible; yet it sees much activity daily. Unorthodox in conception, this office has proved efficient and workable. All of the customary equipment of an office is present in some form or other, though not in view unless wanted. Instead of one desk, there are four available. There is also a work table, and two filing cabinets. In a room 20 ft. by 14 ft., the furnishings are arranged as shown in Sketch I.

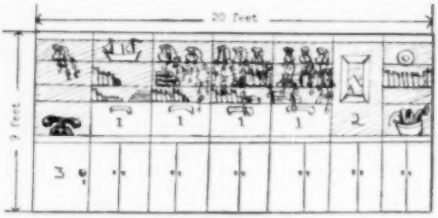


Sketch I

Notice that there is seating space for nine people without crowding. The absence of the customary large desk and work table undoubtedly contributes to the sense of roominess. With little effort the chairs can be arranged in an oval for conferences.

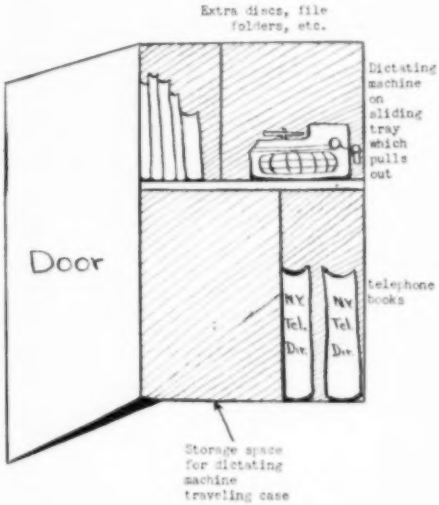
The leather furniture, coffee table, Windsor chairs, wall-to-wall carpeting, air-conditioning unit, and built-in file cabinets are added attractions to the core of the room which is the bookcase wall. Nine feet high and covering the entire twenty feet of wall on one side, it contains cabinets which include book shelves, storage compartments, four desks, a work table, and a concealed drawer for a dictating machine. The arrangement of the unit is approximately that shown in Sketch II.

The bottom row of cabinets provides storage space for filing boxes, pamphlets, magazines, and supplies of various description.



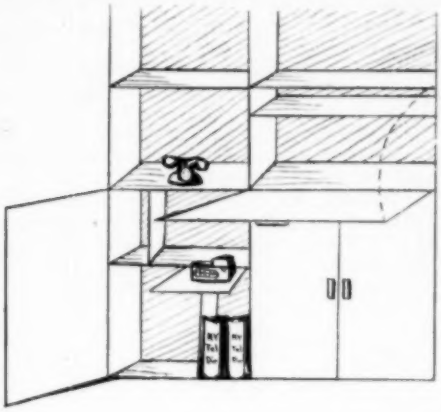
Sketch II

One cabinet, shown at 3 on the sketch, which contains a plastic disk-type dictating machine, has a lock. When the door is open, the machine slides out on a tray. Alongside the machine are built-in pigeonholes for storing extra disks, folders, and telephone books. Sketch III shows approximately the appearance of the compartment when open.



Sketch III

The four panels marked number 1 in Sketch II are drop-down desk surfaces. Each one is about 18 x 36 in. Pulled down, they provide a desk area about 36 x 32 in. A sketch of one section follows:



Sketch IV

This section is the one on the extreme left in Sketch II next to the telephone and the dictating machine. It is used for handling correspondence and the usual details of a day's job. The dictating machine and telephone are handy, and the buzzer button for calling my secretary is mounted close to the telephone, but concealed from direct view.

The cabinets below this desk hold supplies such as paper, pencils, rulers, adhesive tape, etc. More relaxation than the space shown permits is afforded by opening the doors below the working area and using the compartment below the shelf holding the supplies for leg room.

When it is desirable to clear the desk of folders and papers they are merely shifted to the interior of the desk, the panel is raised, and "click" — no more evidence of either desk or work.

The other three panels work similarly. The second one from the left, shown in Sketch II, holds materials referring to speeches, articles to be written or in process, and book manuscripts. The shelves above hold books currently useful at that spot. The doors beneath conceal notes and research materials soon to be drawn upon.

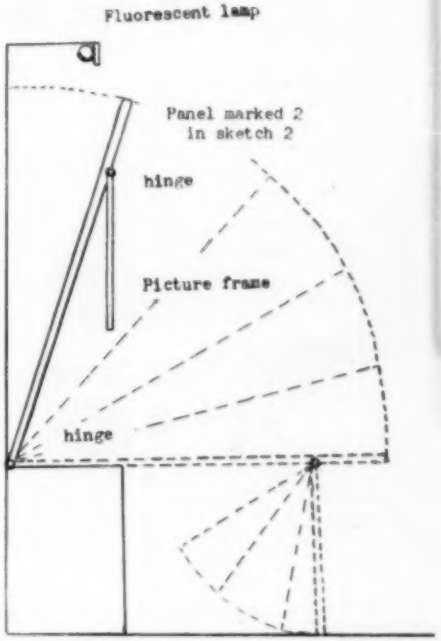
The third one from the left contains national study information. Notes, correspondence, questionnaires, etc., are kept there.

The last desk on the right holds class notes. Here I can spend time before classes reviewing material to be used without having first to clear a working space for the purpose.

These four working places, which have been in operation since February of 1950, have been completely satisfactory. The old clutter of too many books, papers, and folders on one desk is gone. Of course, clutter can still develop, but in this office it is easier to control — and can be concealed quickly when occasion requires.

Unforeseen uses of the work stations have appeared. For example, student assistants in special matters may each use a desk as temporary headquarters. Since my work requires me to spend comparatively little time in the office, it is possible for my assistants to use it a fair proportion of the time.

One final feature of special interest is not evident. The panel marked 2 in Sketch II is really a table folded against the wall. The frame shown is hinged at the top so it can swing out at a right angle from the wall. The picture is not fastened to the frame, but to the wall. If one grasps the lower edge of the frame and pulls outward, the whole panel swings outward on hinges at the bottom. When the panel is out at a right angle from the wall, it makes a table, supported by the picture frame which now serves as the front legs of the table. The sketch below shows some details:



Sketch V

The table allows two people to be seated comfortably on each side and one on the end, for a total of five.

Lighting for the desk stations and the table is provided by a continuous series of fluorescent light tubes concealed behind the valence board at the top of the cabinet. The light provided is practically shadowless at the work positions and is entirely adequate. When in use the whole bookcase front is bathed in light and presents a striking appearance. The interiors of the book shelves, work spaces, and closed compartments are painted the same yellow as the ceiling and window wall, thus giving better light reflection. Exterior surfaces are dark green.

Finishing touches are provided by many green plants, framed prints, and books.

The guiding principles set up to direct my planning were:

1. The equipment and decor should aid me in as many aspects of my work as possible: studying, writing, counseling students, group conferences, entertaining and conferring with visitors, and dictating.

2. The office should be pleasant and comfortable.

3. The office should reflect the aesthetic sensibilities of its occupant and his professional standards. Offices do not need to be the depositories for cast-off equipment nor do they need to be only as inviting and cheerful as most offices.

4. Outfitting the office should cost no more than needed to comply with the three considerations above. In this case, the drop-down desks and tables cost less for the college to build than a new commercial desk and table would have cost.

Ball-Pen Cartridge Refiller

Two samples of U-Fill-It showing a small portion of the leakage that occurred in storage of the device. (The black area at the left is not a blot, but part of a rubber glove used in handling U-Fill-It.)

A DEVICE for refilling empty open-end cartridges for ball-point pens called *U-Fill-It* is intended to make unnecessary the purchase of a new cartridge and thereby reduce greatly the cost of maintaining a ball-point pen. The device consisted of a small metal tube of ink with a threaded plastic cap. A long thin plastic tube or applicator extended from the cap; there was a second threaded plastic cap at the end of the applicator. In the actual operation of refilling a ball-pen cartridge, the device worked satisfactorily, but after its first use leakage was so serious that few would want to handle it at all, considering the difficulty of removing this kind of ink from the hands or clothing. There was considerable difficulty, too, in getting the cartridge of the pen to start and continue writing, if the cartridge had been empty for a time.

The second sample of the same make had a metal cap and applicator tube, and the applicator cap was not threaded but just slipped over the end of the thin tube. The second sample, too, allowed the ink to leak out to an annoying extent. The illustration shows the extreme extent of leakage in two samples tested. Writing of both samples faded badly with exposure to light; this fading that CR has reported in a number of BULLETINS is characteristic of the writing of all the special inks used in ball-point pens.

C. Not Recommended

U-Fill-It (U-Fill-It Corp., 1966 Broadway, New York 23) 29c at one 10-cent store, 49c at another.

RATINGS of MOTION PICTURES

THIS section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 19 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are:

Box Office, Charm, Chicago Daily Tribune, Cue, Daily News (N.Y.), *The Exhibitor, Harrison's Reports, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency List, Newsweek, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D.A.R. Preview Committee, Successful Farming, Time, Variety* (weekly), *Weekly Guide to Selected Motion Pictures* (National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc.), and *Unbiased Opinions of Current Motion Pictures* which includes reviews by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Legion Auxiliary, National Film Music Council, and others.

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), or C (not recommended) on its entertainment values.

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure
bio—biography
c—in color (Technicolor, Cinecolor, Trucolor, Magnacolor, Vitacolor, etc.)
car—cartoon
com—comedy
cri—crime and capture of criminals
doc—documentary
dr—drama
fan—fantasy
hist—founded on historical incident
mel—melodrama
mus—musical
mys—mystery
nov—dramatization of a novel
rom—romance
soc—social-problem drama
trav—travelogue
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
wes—western

A	B	C		
—	3	6	**Admiral Was a Lady, The**	*mus-com A*
—	—	5	**Anna of Rhodes**	*mus-dr A*
9	9	—	**Annie Get Your Gun**	*mus-com-c A*
	4	4	**Arizona Cowboy, The**	*mus-wes AYC*
	7	3	**Armored Car Robbery**	*cri-mel A*
		3	**Arshin Takes a Wife**	*mus-com A*
3	12	2	**Asphalt Jungle, The**	*mel A*
	1	4	**Avengers, The**	*mel A*
	3	10	**Barricade**	*cri-mel-c A*
	7	6	**Beauty on Parade**	*dr A*
1	3		**Beaver Valley**	*doc-c AYC*
	1	3	**Beware of Blondie**	*com AYC*
	5		**Beyond the Purple Hills**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
1	4	10	**Big Hangover, The**	*com A*
4	9	3	**Big Lift, The**	*war-dr AY*
1	3	2	**Black Rose, The**	*adv-c A*
	1	6	**Blonde Dynamite**	*mel A*
		3	**Blood and Fire**	*dr A*
	7	2	**Blue Lamp, The**	*cri-dr A*
	7	2	**Bomba and the Lost Volcano**	*mel AYC*
	4	6	**Bond Street**	*dr A*
1	4	5	**Border Street**	*war-dr A*
	1	2	**Born to be Bad**	*dr A*
	3	4	**Boy from Indiana**	*mel A*
	6	10	**Bright Leaf**	*dr A*
4	10	1	**Broken Arrow**	*dr-c AYC*
	5	9	**Buccaneer's Girl**	*mus-mel-c A*
	3	4	**Bunco Squad**	*cri-mel A*
	4	9	**Caged**	*soc-dr A*
	5	12	**Captain Carey, U.S.A.**	*war-mel A*
	4	5	**Captive Girl**	*adv-c AYC*
1	5	9	**Capture, The**	*mel A*
	5	7	**Cargo to Capetown**	*mel A*
—	7	2	**Cariboo Trail, The**	*wes-c AYC*
2	11	2	**Cheaper by the Dozen**	*dr-c AYC*
—	1	3	**Children of Chaos**	*dr A*
—	6	1	**Code of the Silver Sage**	*wes AYC*
—	—	4	**Colorado Ranger**	*wes AYC*
—	5	6	**Colt .45**	*wes-c AYC*
1	8	2	**Comanche Territory**	*mel-c AYC*
—	4	3	**Congolaise**	*trav-doc A*
—	4	6	**Convicted**	*dr A*
1	4	2	**Copper Canyon**	*mel-c A*
1	4	—	**Country Fair**	*dr-c AYC*
—	2	3	**Covered Wagon Raid**	*wes AYC*
—	7	7	**Crisis**	*soc-dr A*
—	10	1	**Curtain Call at Cactus Creek**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
—	3	6	**Customs Agent**	*mel A*
—	6	10	**Damned Don't Cry, The**	*dr A*
—	2	2	**Dancing Years, The**	*mus-com-c A*
—	4	1	**Dark City**	*mys-mel A*
1	9	7	**Daughter of Rosie O'Grady, The**	*mus-com-c A*
—	7	—	**David Harding, Counterspy**	*mys-mel AYC*
1	4	1	**Daybreak in Udi**	*doc A*
—	1	3	**Dear Mr. Prohack**	*com A*
—	5	2	**Death of a Dream**	*doc A*
—	2	3	**Desert Hawk, The**	*adv-c A*
—	2	5	**Destination Big House**	*mel A*
2	12	1	**Destination Moon**	*dr-c AYC*
	1	7	**Destination Murder**	*cri-mel A*
	4	4	**Devil's Doorway**	*wes AYC*
	2	3	**Difficult Years**	*war-dr A*
1	7	6	**D.O.A.**	*cri-mel A*
—	10	6	**Duchess of Idaho**	*mus-com-c AYC*
—	5	3	**Dynamite Pass**	*wes AYC*
—	5	11	**Edge of Doom**	*dr A*
—	4	2	**Escape into Dreams**	*war-dr A*
—	2	4	**Everybody's Dancin'**	*mus-com AY*
—	5	—	**Eye Witness**	*mys A*
1	4	1	**Fancy Pants**	*mus-com AYC*
—	1	4	**Father Makes Good**	*com A*
3	12	1	**Father of the Bride**	*com AYC*
4	8	2	**Faust and the Devil**	*mus-dr A*
	2	5	**Federal Agent at Large**	*mus-mel AY*
	2	3	**Federal Man**	*cri-mel A*
—	1	4	**Fence Riders**	*wes AYC*
—	11	1	**50 Years Before Your Eyes**	*doc AY*
	2	4	**Fighting Stallion, The**	*dr AYC*
	3	1	**Fireball, The**	*mel AYC*
1	8	3	**Flame and the Arrow, The**	*dr-c A*
	1	5	**Forbidden Jungle**	*mel A*
	2	6	**Foreign Legion, The**	*com AYC*
	5	6	**Fortunes of Captain Blood, The**	*mel AYC*
	4	4	**Four Days Leave**	*war-com-c A*
	3	2	**Frightened City**	*mel A*
	3	2	**Frontier Outpost**	*wes AYC*
1	5	10	**Furies, The**	*wes A*
—	1	4	**Gates of the Night**	*war-mel A*
—	3	4	**Gigi**	*dr A*
—	4	2	**Girl from San Lorenzo, The**	*wes AYC*
		3	**Girl in a Million, A**	*com A*
—	3	1	**Girls Behind Bars**	*dr A*
—	6	4	**Golden Gloves Story, The**	*dr AY*
—	3	1	**Golden Salamander**	*cri-mel A*
3	8	2	**Golden Twenties, The**	*mus-doc AYC*
—	9	4	**Good Humor Man, The**	*com AYC*
		5	**Good Time Girl**	*mel A*
—	6	5	**Great Jewel Robbery, The**	*cri-mel A*
—	2	7	**Great Plane Robbery, The**	*cri-mel AYC*
—	1	3	**Gun Crazy**	*cri-mel AYC*
1	10	2	**Gun Fighter, The**	*wes AYC*
—	3	—	**Gunfire**	*mel A*
—	1	4	**Gunmen of Abilene**	*wes AYC*
—	1	2	**Gunslingers**	*wes AYC*

A	B	C		
1	7	3	**Happy Years, The**	*com-c AYC*
	5	3	**Harbor of Missing Men**	*mel AY*
	6		**Heart and Soul**	*dr A*
	3	9	**Her Wonderful Lie**	*mus-dr A*
	6	1	**High Lonesome**	*wes-c AYC*
	1	4	**Hi-Jacked**	*cri-mel A*
	6	1	**Hills of Oklahoma**	*mus-wes AYC*
	2	7	**Hoedown**	*com AYC*
	4		**Holy Year, 1950**	*doc AYC*
	3	2	**Hostile Country**	*wes AYC*
	5	9	**House by the River**	*mys-mel A*
	1	7	**Humphrey Takes a Chance**	*com AYC*
	2	1	**I Shot Billy the Kid**	*wes AYC*
	6	5	**I Was a Shoplifter**	*cri-dr A*
	2	6	**If This Be Sin**	*dr A*
1	10	4	**In a Lonely Place**	*mel A*
	2	2	**Invisible Army, The**	*war-dr A*
	5	2	**Iroquois Trail, The**	*nov AYC*
	5	3	**It's a Small World**	*dr A*
1	10	4	**Jackie Robinson Story, The**	*biog AYC*
	4	3	**Jiggs and Maggie Out West**	*com AYC*
	1	7	**Johnny One Eye**	*dr A*
	4	2	**Jungle Stampede**	*adv-doc A*
		6	**Kill or Be Killed**	*cri-mel A*
	7	5	**Kill the Umpire**	*com AYC*
	5	1	**Killer Shark**	*mel A*
1	11	3	**Kind Hearts and Coronets**	*com A*
	5	4	**Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye**	*cri-mel A*
	4	6	**Lady Without Passport, A**	*dr A*
	13	2	**Lawless, The**	*soc-dr A*
	1	2	**Lenin**	*doc-biog A*
	2	2	**Let's Dance**	*mus-com-c AY*
	4	1	**Life of Her Own, A**	*dr A*
1	9		**Louisa**	*com AYC*
	1	2	**Love of a Clown**	*mus-dr A*
	8	6	**Love that Brute**	*com A*
	4	1	**Lucky Losers**	*mel A*
	6	2	**Ma and Pa Kettle Go to Town**	*com AYC*
	2	4	**Mad About the Opera**	*mus-dr A*
	5	3	**Madeleine**	*cri-dr A*
	4	2	**Mafia**	*dr A*
6	9		**Men, The**	*war-dr A*
	3	2	**Messenger of Peace**	*dr AYC*
	1	8	**Military Academy**	*dr AYC*
2	1		**Mister 880**	*dr A*
1	4	3	**Modern Marriage, A**	*doc-dr A*
	5	2	**Motor Patrol**	*cri-mel AY*
	1	4	**Mrs. Fitzherbert**	*hist-dr A*
	5	3	**Mule Train**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
	2	3	**My Blue Heaven**	*mus-com-c A*
	8	8	**My Friend Irma Goes West**	*mus-com A*
		4	**Mystery at the Burlesque**	*mus-mel A*
1	12		**Mystery Street**	*cri-mel A*
5	7	5	**Next Voice You Hear, The**	*dr AYC*
	7	7	**Night and the City**	*mys-mel A*
	8	8	**No Man of Her Own**	*mel A*
3	10		**No Sad Songs for Me**	*dr A*
1	9	4	**No Way Out**	*soc-mel A*
		3	**O Sole Mio**	*mus-dr A*
	2	2	**Old Frontier, The**	*wes A*
	3	4	**On the Isle of Samoa**	*mel A*
	3	4	**Once a Thief**	*mel A*
	6	8	**One Way Street**	*cri-mel A*
1	3	2	**Operation Haylift**	*dr AYC*
1	10	5	**Our Very Own**	*dr A*
	2	5	**Outcast of Black Mesa**	*mus-wes AYC*
	2	2	**Outrage**	*dr A*
	13	2	**Outriders, The**	*mel-c A*
2	9	4	**Panic in the Streets**	*mel A*
	2	2	**Paris Waltz, The**	*mus-com A*
	8	3	**Peggy**	*com-c AYC*
	8	6	**Perfect Strangers**	*cri-dr A*
		4	**Perfect Woman, The**	*com A*
	8	3	**Petty Girl, The**	*com-c A*
	5	10	**Please Believe Me**	*com A*
	5	2	**Pretty Baby**	*com A*
	4	10	**Quicksand**	*cri-dr A*
	1	3	**Range Land**	*wes AYC*
	1	5	**Rapture**	*dr A*
	14	3	**Reformer and the Redhead, The**	*com AYC*
	3	2	**Return of the Black Eagle**	*mel A*

A	B	C		
	5	6	**Return of the Frontiersman**	*wes AYC*
	5	1	**Rider from Tucson**	*wes A*
	4		**Right Cross**	*dr AYC*
	10	2	**Rock Island Trail**	*mus-mel-c AYC*
	6	5	**Rocketship XM**	*mel AYC*
1	10	6	**Rocking Horse Winner, The**	*dr A*
	6	4	**Rogues of Sherwood Forest**	*adv-c AYC*
	3	4	**Royal Affair, A**	*com A*
		4	**Rules of the Game, The**	*com A*
	12	3	**Run for Your Money, A**	*com AYC*
	2	1	**Saddle Tramp**	*wes-c AYC*
	2	6	**Salt Lake Raiders**	*wes AYC*
		6	**Sarumba**	*mus-com A*
	4	2	**Savage Horde, The**	*wes AYC*
	2	6	**Scandals of Clochemerle, The**	*com A*
	9	6	**Secret Fury, The**	*mel A*
	1	2	**September Affair**	*dr A*
	9	6	**711 Ocean Drive**	*cri-mel A*
	5	8	**Shadow on the Wall**	*mys-mel A*
	3	4	**Sideshow**	*dr-c AYC*
	6	4	**Sierra**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
		3	**Sin of Anna Lans, The**	*dr A*
	8	4	**Singing Guns**	*mus-wes-c A*
	8	7	**Skipper Surprised His Wife, The**	*com AYC*
	3		**Sleeping City, The**	*cri-mel A*
	5	1	**Snow Dog**	*mel AYC*
	4		**So Long at the Fair**	*mys-mel A*
	5	7	**So Young, So Bad**	*dr A*
	8	3	**Spy Hunt**	*mel AYC*
	2	5	**Square Dance Katy**	*mus-com AYC*
1	14	3	**Stage Fright**	*cri-mel A*
2	9	1	**Stars in My Crown**	*dr AYC*
	3	5	**State Penitentiary**	*mel A*
	3	6	**Stella**	*com A*
		3	**Storm Within, The**	*dr A*
	2	3	**Streets of Ghost Town**	*mus-wes AYC*
2	4		**Summer Stock**	*mus-dr-c AYC*
8	8		**Sunset Boulevard**	*cri-mel A*
	1	2	**Tainted**	*dr A*
	3	5	**Tarnished**	*dr A*
	5	3	**Tarzan and the Slave Girl**	*adv AYC*
1	2	1	**Tea for Two**	*mus-com-c A*
	1	4	**Texas Dynamo**	*mus-wes AYC*
	2	9	**This Side of the Law**	*mel A*
	3	1	**Three Husbands**	*dr A*
1	10	2	**Three Little Words**	*mus-com-c AYC*
2	11		**Ticket to Tomahawk, A**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
		4	**Timber Fury**	*mel AYC*
	2	10	**Torch, The**	*dr A*
	1	3	**Trail of the Rustlers**	*mus-wes AYC*
5	12		**Treasure Island**	*nov-c AYC*
	1	5	**Trial Without Jury**	*cri-mel A*
	5	1	**Trigger, Jr.**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
	8	1	**Twilight in the Sierras**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
	3	6	**Tyrant of the Sea**	*mel A*
	7	7	**Under My Skin**	*dr A*
	2	3	**Underworld Story, The**	*mys-mel A*
	5	2	**Union Station**	*mel A*
		7	**Unmasked**	*cri-dr A*
	2	6	**Vanishing Westerner, The**	*wes AYC*
	5	3	**Vicious Years, The**	*war-dr A*
		4	**Victors and the Vanquished, The**	*war-dr A*
	2	2	**Vigilante Hideout**	*wes AYC*
	7	3	**Wabash Avenue**	*mus-com-c A*
1	11		**Wagonmaster**	*mus-wes AYC*
1	7	3	**Walls of Malapaga, The**	*dr A*
	2	3	**West of the Brazos**	*wes AYC*
	4	2	**West of Wyoming**	*wes AYC*
	5	3	**Western Pacific Agent**	*wes A*
	1	5	**Where Danger Lives**	*mys-mel A*
	9	2	**Where the Sidewalk Ends**	*cri-mel A*
	7	3	**While the Sun Shines**	*com A*
	5	4	**Whipped, The**	*mel A*
2	9	3	**White Tower, The**	*dr-c AY*
2	11	1	**Winchester '73**	*wes A*
2	9	4	**Winslow Boy, The**	*dr AYC*
	3	4	**With These Hands**	*doc-dr AYC*
	7	10	**Woman of Distinction, A**	*com A*
	1	6	**Women from Headquarters**	*mel AYC*
	1	2	**World Youth Festival**	*doc-c A*
	6	6	**Yellow Cab Man, The**	*com AYC*
	3	4	**Young Daniel Boone**	*mel-c AYC*

The Consumers' Observation Post

(Continued from page 4)

is expected to be banned in Great Britain. Dr. Pollak suggests, however, that other bread "improvers" may also be a cause of cumulative adverse effects inducing a hypersensitive state. Indeed, one British medical expert suggests that the ever-increasing proportion of processed foods containing many novelties may be an important factor in the development of allergic reactions.

* * *

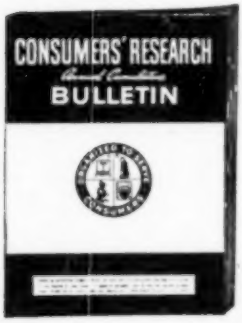
WHAT MAKES A NEW CAR SMELL "NEW," asks a writer to the editor of Popular Science? The reply was that there were two sources of smell, rubber cement and rubberized metal-sealing compound used in installing the windshield and back-window assemblies. The magazine also reported that there are at least two chemicals on the market for spraying the inside of used cars to make them smell new. (Sorry, we can't tell you where to get them to freshen up your old jalopy, but we think that the "new-car" smell is a somewhat novel way of "keeping up with the Joneses.")

* * *

THAT CLOTHING will look better and wear longer if given a rest between wearing has been known for some time. An interesting interpretation of the process, however, was recently given by Professor Edward R. Schwartz of M.I.T. who advanced the theory that many yarns and fabrics had what he called "a memory effect." Certain materials, he held, seemed to remember their past history of folding, creasing, and flatness of fabric, and when garments made from them were hung in a closet for a day or two after wearing, the garments tended to lose their wrinkles and return to their original shape.

* * *

THREE HUNDRED CASES, totaling 14,400 cans, of Orange King Frozen Orange Concentrate were seized last spring by the Food and Drug Administration at Seattle, Washington. The federal agency charged that the product was adulterated because yellow coal-tar dyes had been added to make it appear that more orange juice was present than was actually the case. Sugar and citric acid had also been added.



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THE VALUE OF ULTRAVIOLET LAMPS for disinfecting large refrigerators to prevent meat spoilage has not been conclusively established, advises the Journal of the American Medical Association. Ultraviolet rays, points out the Journal, are propagated in straight lines, hence bacteria in shadows and in crevices, as well as on the side of the meat away from the light rays, will not be killed by the radiation.

* * *

CABINETS in which new sewing machines are mounted have been the subject of consumer complaint. After selecting a particular make of sewing machine, the consumer cannot do much about selection of a cabinet that meets with her approval, because the cabinet construction may be characteristic of the entire line of that particular manufacturer, and she will likely have no alternate choice. After deciding on the type of sewing machine, the next question for the prospective buyer is whether she wants the cabinet to serve the additional functions of writing desk, bedstand, or bookcase. The more rigid and serviceable cabinets designed for sewing operations only are often less expensive. Points to look for in good cabinet construction are: firm seating of the sewing machine head when in the upright sewing position; all construction joints rigidly glued and reinforced; a properly supported lid, preferably with an outrigger arm, hinged bracket, or heavy hinges; sturdy enough legs to prevent vibration or wobbling, with the legs connected to the cabinet in substantial fashion; whether the electric wires and mountings inside the cabinet are substantially fastened, and so protected that no one could accidentally come in contact with a live wire or connection.

* * *

NEWLY AVAILABLE OR NEWLY TESTED:

Monowatt Auto Trouble Light (Monowatt, Inc., Providence 7, R.I.), 98c. A useful device, designed to plug into the cigarette lighter receptacle on the dashboard, which consisted of a length of cord approximately 12 feet long, by use of which the light can reach any part of most cars, a 6.75-volt GE 87 bayonet-base lamp, plastic socket and plug, and a metal reflector with a guard and swivel hook attached. The trouble lamp gave excellent illumination and, for this reason, was found to be much more satisfactory than the ordinary flashlight. It would be helpful not only for changing tires or examining the engine at night, or in a dark garage, but also for reading maps, loading or unloading the trunk of the car, examining a campsite or the shoulder of a road, or looking for an article that has been lost or misplaced.

Consumers' Research, Inc.
Washington, N. J.

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PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

BY WALTER F. GRUENINGER

Please Note: In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended. Although nearly all new releases of serious music are heard, space narrows comment, generally, to items which merit high ratings.

Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1* (5 sides) & **Mozart:** *Overture to La Clemenza Di Tito* (1 side). Boston Symphony Orchestra under Koussevitzky. RCA Victor Set WDM 1362. $3.35. One of the best Brandenburgs gets a well proportioned though not inspired performance and fairly successful Tanglewood recording.
Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Bartok: *Quartets Nos. 1 through 6.* Juilliard String Quartet. Columbia LPs 4278-9-80. $4.85 each. The entire quartet output of Bartok. Especially since his death in 1945, his chamber music seems to have gained in importance with each performance though his extreme modernism rules out easy listening. *Quartets Nos. 2* and *4* are particularly representative but all require of the performers brilliance amounting to virtuosity. The Juilliard Quartet has already established an enviable reputation among concert goers for their Bartok performances. Recording — close in and excellent. Surfaces — nearly inaudible.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Beethoven: *Concerto No. 1.* Gieseking with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Columbia LP 4307. $4.85. Though only Beethoven's *second* effort for this combination of instruments, the stamp of genius is clearly indicated. Light, flowing performance that tops all competitors. Recorded in England without maximum high frequencies, perhaps, but with pleasing depth and clarity. Even in this respect it overshadows competitive Toscanini-Victor Set 1036.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Beethoven: *Concerto in D Major.* Kulenkampff with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Schmidt-Isserstedt. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8099. $4.85. Widely regarded as the greatest violin concerto. The performance is musically solid and very likely will prove pleasant to live with, but it does not possess the nuance of the Szigeti set nor the energy of the Heifetz-Toscanini set. Recorded with resonance and sufficient range to make it well sounding. Overall, if not the best Beethoven, it is certainly commendable.
Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Bizet: *L'Arlesienne Suites Nos. 1 and 2.* Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Schuricht and Schmidt-Isserstedt. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8098. $3.85. Bright, tuneful incidental music that appeals to nearly every one. Sumptuously played. While lacking the wide range present in the latest tape-recorded domestic disks, the orchestra emerges with force and adequate fidelity.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Bowles: *Concerto for Two Pianos, Winds and Percussion.* Gold and Fizdale (duo-pianos) with Group & **Milhaud:** *Carnaval a la Nouvelle-Orleans* and *Les Songes.* Gold and Fizdale. Columbia LP 2128. $3.85. Enduring musical values I do not find in these lively, colorful modern works but first rate recording is evident. The Bowles work particularly, with its percussion instruments including a milk bottle and a cigar box, rates as a demonstration record. Stunning performance.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Liszt: *Concerto No. 1.* Schmid with the Munich Broadcasting Symphony under Rosbaud & **Strauss:** *Burlesque.* G. Muench (piano) with the Munich Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra under Dressel. Polydor Vox LP 6110. $5.95. The famous romantic triangle concerto and a youthful Strauss piece. Lively, non-pompous performances with excellent work on the part of both pianists and rougher work by the orchestra. Very likely a recently recorded tape job with some edginess in the highs and a slight waver in piano pitch now and then. In other respects, vivid recording.
Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording A

Puccini: *Il Tabarro.* Reali, Scarlini, Petrella, etc., under Baroni. Cetra-Soria Set LP 50.029. $5.95. One act thriller rarely played nowadays with music suggesting *Boheme, Butterfly,* and *Tosca.* Sympathetic direction and singing. Voices well recorded but the orchestra seems less full than desirable.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Schubert: *Divertissement a la Hongroise.* Vronsky and Babin (piano, 4 hands). Columbia LP 2125. $3.85. Charming, seldom heard work. Performed with perception and good taste. Smooth recording with no wavering of pitch in my pressing which is unusual for LP and 45 rpm. piano recording.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Strauss: *Death and Transfiguration.* Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra under Mengelberg & *Till Eulenspiegel.* Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Krauss. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8100. $4.85. Exceptional performances of outstanding Strauss orchestral works. While the recording lacks the widest frequency range, it offers depth and crisp reproduction of brass. *Till* is better served by the engineers but both recordings are adequate, better than most Capitol-Telefunken disks heard before this month. Some surface scratch.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 6* ("Pathétique") Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra under Mengelberg. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8103. $4.85. Another recording of this melancholy masterpiece — the best. Mengelberg stamps his personality over Tchaikovsky's score and may be criticized for excessive retards and accented slides in the violin section, and less crispness in the march than Toscanini gives us. On the other hand, Rodzinski's Columbia Set 558 is more conservative and well recorded, if you prefer it that way. But Mengelberg's sounds like a recent recording with good high and low range and obvious depth in the placement of instruments.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Ellabelle Davis Sings Operatic Airs and Lieder (soprano). London LP 181. $4.85. Two arias from *Don Carlos* and *La Wally,* five lieder by Schubert and Strauss. Delicate, pleasant, floating vocal production but insufficient drama and style.
Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording AA

Francescatti Violin Recital. Columbia LP 4310. $4.85. You can generally depend on Francescatti for style, fine musicianship and elegant tone. That's what you find in this group of 10 encore numbers ranging from Albeniz to Wieniawski. Excellent recording.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Love Songs From Foreign Lands. Nelson Eddy (baritone). Columbia LP 2130. $3.85. Mr. Eddy's deadpan delivery lacks the romantic fervor needed in these numbers by Beethoven, Lecuona, Massenet, Tosti, etc. Delectable recording.
Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording AA

* * *

If your dealer cannot locate the manufacturer or jobber of LP's I discuss, tell him to refer to *Record Retailing* (274 Madison Ave., New York 16). He is likely to find the information he needs in this trade magazine. . . Bear in mind that currently most LP's may be purchased in New York City at about 25% below list price. A reputable mail-order house offering a large variety of brands is Sam Goody, 853 Ninth Ave., N.Y.C. He and others advertise their discounts frequently in the Sunday *New York Times,* Music Section, to the dismay of dealers throughout the land.

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